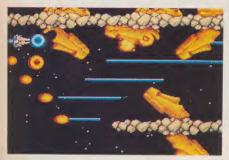
SEXY SILICON

As Nintendo prepares to launch a new 16-bit console in Japan, Rik Haynes reveals the Super Famicom's specs and games...

o-one can doubt the worldwide success of Japan's leading console manufacturer. In the last five years Nintendo has sold something like 40 million Famicom consoles (known as the Nintendo Entertainment System in Europe and America), and is predicting sales of the Gameboy handheld console will top five million by the end of this year.



Caption caption

Nintendo video game characters have become cultural icons in both Japan and America. These cute sprites appear in theme parks and their own TV cartoon series – you can even eat them for breakfast (cereal), lunch (burgers), and dessert (cake decorations).

Now the Japanese video games company that rivals Sony in terms of pure-profit has turned its attention to 16-bit consoles, a rapidly expanding market currently dominated by Sega. So will the Super Famicom beat the Megadrive?

TECHNO-THRUST

Nintendo's new console boasts an impressive tech-spec (see the Super Specs panel for full details), including a palette of 32768 colours, eight-channel 16-bit PCM stereo-sound and hard-





ware-assisted object scaling (sprites which can enlarge and shrink). The Super Famicom will be launched in Japan later this month for an unbelievable 25000 yen (approximately £100).

There are over 40 Super Famicom games in development at the moment. Three titles will be available at launch: Super Mario World (the latest addition to the Mario platform saga), F-Zero (fast futuristic racing-sim) and Bombuzal (fun puzzle game originally designed by Tony Crowther). The average price for a Super Famicom game is 8000 yen (around £32). Other games to be released this year on the Super Famicom include Populous, Sim-City, Dungeon Master, Shadow of the Beast II, Final Fight (a kick'em-to-death'emup), Gradius III and Drakkhen.

There is currently no UK release date set for the Super Famicom, though rumours suggest Nintendo may launch its new corker of a console in Europe before the autumn of 1991. And that's not the only rumour circulating around the Land of the Rising Sun. Japanese pundits are speculat-

ing on the future release of a Super Famicom CD-ROM drive and a special adaptor allowing you to play NES cartridge games on your Super

ACE will be receiving the Super Famicom console and games as soon as they're released in Japan... look-out for our definitive review in a near-future issue. Finally, a special thanks to our friends at ASCII Corporation in Japan for providing the pics used in this article.





- CPU incorporates a customised 16-bit DMA circuit to speedup graphics and sound functions.
- · 128K RAM, 64K video-RAM.
- Clock can be automatically switched to
- 1.79MHz, 2.68MHz and 3.58Mhz.
- Screen size of 256x224 or 512x448.
- 128 colours on-screen out of a palette of
- Can handle objects (sprites) of various sizes.
- Eight-channel stereo-sound and 32KHz sampling rate provided by 16-bit PCM chip.
- RF, composite and RGB video output.
- 28-pin edge connector (perhaps for a CD-ROM drive, modem, add-on keyboard...)







Somehow you don't get quite as much advantage on the corners as you would in real life!

RIDING Burn - Neo

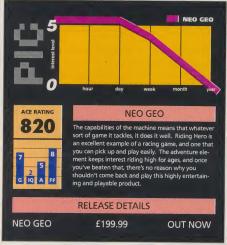
HERO

oming, as it is, on the 'console of the future', you'd expect a little more from Riding Hero than just a run-of-the-mill race game. Not only does it offer you a straight motorcycle racer, it also gives you an adventure. Yes, an ADVENTURE! What will they think of next?

The first of the two games on the cartridge is a rather typical motor racer with a choice of four machines to ride. Racing in a field of eight, you have to complete two laps of each of the world's most famous courses, finishing in the first three to continue to the next course.

The adventure, on the other hand, is something quite novel. It takes place over three different screens: a map screen; a picture of your current location, where you can arrange races for money, and the race screen itself (involving a typical 'behind-your vehicle' view of the race, just like almost every other race game ever written). You begin as a novice racer without a bike, and

Burn tread with SNK - Neo Geo style!



have to progress up through the reputation ranks in your town until you finally meet Diamond Dave, King of the Bikers. Beat him, and you become the new ruler.

The controls are simple and uncomplicated. No gears, one button to accelerate, one to brake and one to ignite the turbo, a handy little gadget, with limited uses, that gives you a very short burst of very high speed. The screen display is clean and uncluttered, with the only overlaid information being two lines at the top of the screen that show your current speed and standings.

The actual race segment of the game is pretty uninspiring, but with the adventure you increase the lasting power of the game considerably. *Riding Hero* is definitely fun to play, and offers a novel twist on a well worn genre. Worth checking out on rental.

Tony Dillon



The menu driven adventure section adds to long term interest

ACE RATING NEO GEO Like any arcade game, Ninja Combat is designed for instant playing, rather than any sort of lasting appeal. It promises to be an exiting beat-em-up, and it delivers well. If you can resist the infinite continues, it'll take a while to complete, and like most arcadesters, once finished the attraction goes. Our rating here is for the version without infinite continues—or with supreme restraint! RELEASE DETAILS NEO GEO £199.99 OUT NOW

K, so it's not the most original title ever, and on the face of it it isn't the most original game either. A left-to-right scrolling beat-emup, with bad guys ranging from black-clad ninjas to large firebreathing robot dogs walking on at certain points of the scroll. As you bash the baddies, they drop weapons and bonuses that can be collected to heighten your own abilities, such as speed and power, or just to increase your offensive strength. After all, someone with a tenfoot broadsword is a far more formidable opponent than someone with a tiny dagger.

As the game progresses, it becomes very difficult indeed. Huge swarms of nasties come flooding on screen, and you really need to be quick with the highly responsive controls to win through. However, I still finished the game within

NINJA COMBAT

SNK pit you against arcade quality opponents

half an hour, thanks to a nice little design flaw in the first batch of the Neo Geo consoles called 'infinite continues'. Every time you die, the machine prompts you to press START to continue and hey presto! you're back in the fight where you left off with a full complement of lives.

To finish any game that quickly is sad, particularly at this asking price. Speaking to Active Sales, who are handling the machine in this country, they tell us that SNK are rectifying this, which should make the games a little more competitive. Until then, you'll just have to have a little self control.



What happens when you're the offspring of an unholy union between Rocky and Rambo – you end up musclebound and beaten to a pulp by aggressive sprites

The presentation is top notch, with arcade quality graphics and sound, and even an arcadestyle attract mode. On the bottom line, this game is fulfilling what the Neo Geo promises – a standard arcade machine for the home.

AFTERBURNER I Fly low and fast in this PC Engine shoot'em-up

shoot'em-up

riginally one of Sega's hydro-cabinet coin-ops, Afterburner has now hit the PC Engine at a mighty Mach 2. But does the lack of hydro-hardware costing thousands of pounds effect the game?

As a Navy Air Captain in charge of a F-14 Thunder Cat fighter you must wade through wave after wave of enemy fighters in an endless succession of total destruction. Your Cat is armed with fireguided missiles and Vulcan cannon, and is capable of speeds in excess of Mach



A brief piece of peace... the action stops while you re-load.

Afterburner II is a simple head-on shoot-em'up enhanced by fast and furious graphics. Your highly maneuverable Cat can twist, tilt and turn round the screen. It can even flip 360°. An 'artificial horizon' scanner is displayed at the top left of the screen, while weapon, speed and score stats are located along the bottom. The game is divided into multiple-stages, with a brief respite between each for reloading. Although you've an unlimited supply of Cannon blasts, the fire-andforget missiles are strictly on a tight number basis. A sight appears on any enemy aircraft currently in range.



Afterburner II is packed with all the extra goodies usually found in Japanese games including a neat '3D room' where you can play ball with the flying three-dimensional Afterburner Il logo found on the title page. You can change its pattern, colour and speed, zoom in/out and rotate the logo around its x, y, and z coordinates. To be honest, this is probably the most innovative feature of Afterburner II.

Rik Haynes

Nemesis-style shooting on the PC Engine courtesy of Naxat Soft

ou've moved the multiples in Nemesis, you've released the ripple lasers in Salamander. Now do exactly the same in W-Ring

PC ENGINE RELEASE DETAILS £32.99 **OUT NOW** PC ENGINE No other versions planned

'The Double Rings' from Naxat Soft. That's right, Japan has just given birth to yet another multi-level horizontallyscrolling blast'em-to-hell'em-up.

W-Ring is a six-stage shooter with all the trimmings: extra missiles, ring beams, multi-way shots, lasers, multiples and gyro shields to collect - ordinary alien laser-fodder and end-of-level guardians to blast out of the screen.

The only trouble with the game? W-Ring is all too easy to complete. You're practically invincible once you've got a few power-up items. For instance, the level-guardian sprite at the end of stage 3 – a sort of triffid with a huge light-bulb on its head - can be quickly dispatched with a single squirt of your 'agua toothpaste' laser. So get ready to knock-up some giant hiscores with this one!

Rik Haynes



The beam laser seems to be the most impressive weapon.



It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a triffid with a light-bulb on its head!

Special thanks to PC ENGINE SUPPLIES (tel: 0782 712759) for supplying the games

Game Boy from Nintendo. Picking it up is the **easy** part. ik Haynes Digital stereo sound. Personal headphones.
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FINAL BLASTER

Namco blasts away on the PC Engine

ow do you improve one of the best vertically-scrolling shoot'em-ups ever developed? Gunhead redefined the way people rate this style of game on not only the PC Engine, but also other home games decks. Now Namco is touting a successor - so is it the blasting business? Will this be the final fight for the number

As far as gameplay is concerned, there's no new features to be found in Final Blaster - just a well-tested selection of ideas tuned to near-perfection. You control a small but mobile spacefighter over a moving backdrop filled with vari-

> ous alien sprite ships of all shapes and sizes. Your job is to blast them away. If you hold down the fire button, your ship turns into a flaming phoenix which shoots out a massive fireball - useful for dealing with your larger foes. You manually select the speed of your fighter, and by collecting special pods which appear throughout the game you can power-up with extra shots, shields, lasers, multi-directional shots, missiles and multiples (which increase your weapons systems by a factor of one to three).



The alien forces are equipped with some particularly nasty weapons such as a submunitions bomb which quietly drifts to the bottom of the screen, then unleashes a barrage of deadly missiles. The end-of-level guardian ship on stage one tries to trap you between its two laser beams while blasting you with blue bouncing ball

Final Blaster has 7 rounds - each featuring new alien craft with progressively better weapons, 16 weapon configurations for your spacecraft and some of the most demanding stages I've ever played in a PC Engine game. For game satisfaction its' got the right tactics.

Rik Haynes



One of the nasty end-of-level guardians... be careful not to get caught between its electro beams.

PC Engine great eh!

PC Engine owners can now play Bruce Willis...

ased around the reasonably popular allaction movie, Die Hard sees you taking the role of 'Bruce Willis' playing a cop on a rescue mission. Some business executives have been trapped in a LA high-rise building by armed and dangerous terrorists, and you have to save them single-handed.

×098

Punching your way out of trouble

Die Hard has been inspired by the Commando genre of shoot'em-ups and is split into 10 separate stages. You start the game outside of the building in the local park. As you wander through the undergrowth you encounter armed terrorists, soldiers and policemen who immediately shoot at you. You must punch their lights-out before

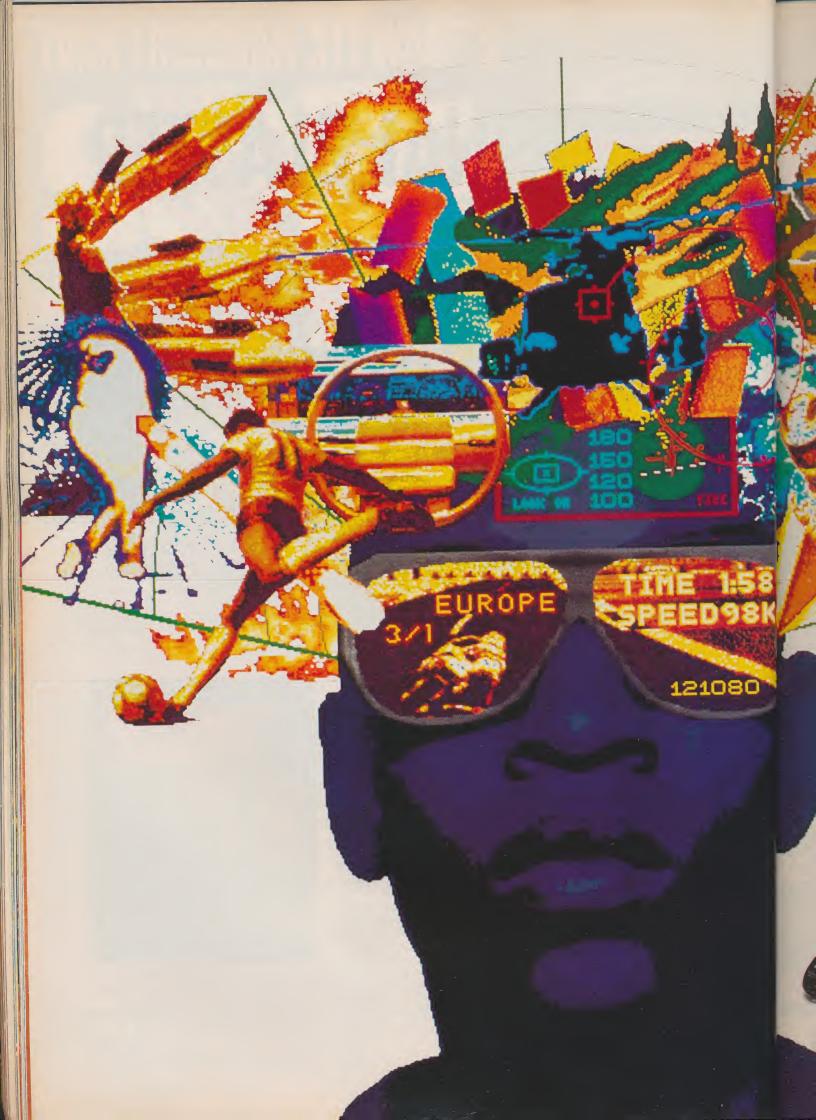
your energy is completely depleted by their bullets. Fortunately, these thugs sometimes leave their weapons for you to pick-up and use. The M16 rifle is the worst weapon as it's only single-shot. The Heckler and Koch automatic weapon is fast-firing, the grenade-launcher is great for wide-area attack but the flamethrower is the best of the lot - providing you with a surround-field of fire. You can also collect a flak jacket for added-protection and a power bottle or medical kit to replenish your energy.



Although this Activision/Pack-In Video/Nihon Bussan release is enhanced by attractive bitmap 'splash' screens digitised from the film, Die Hard's relentless violence is just too repetitive to make you want to stay with it.

Rik Haynes

Special thanks to PC ENGINE SUPPLIES (tel: 0782 712759) for supplying the games.





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Are you ready to become an interactive book-worm?

magine an electronic book on compact disc.
You could have over 550Mb of information at the click of an icon. This data would be presented to you in a variety of interesting and informative ways – through the use of computer text, graphics, animation, sound and speech and/or motion video and CD-quality audio (for music and narration). Everything would be cross-referenced and instantly accessible. You wouldn't just read a book, you'd 'play' it.

The central ideas behind the 'interactive electronic book' concept form the basis of a new CDTV project currently under development at Digigraphic. At last, the multi-media novel, hypermagazine and digital comic are here... well almost!

HOT WORDS

Digigraphic was formed four years ago to develop applications software for the Amiga. In that time it has created various projects including Eidersoft's Prosound Designer, Pro Midi Plus and Video Magic. It wasn't long before Digigraphic decided to get involved in the emerging multi-media market.

This Lutterworth-based company has been developing the *Living Book Publisher* system on the CDTV for the last 12 months. Its first application of the system, *Everyman's Technology Living Book*, is well under way and due for release in March 1991. It's just a shame about the sexist title.

"We have program development, multi-media research and computer graphic design departments now working on CDTV projects in probably the most powerful Amiga development environment in Europe," states Digigraphic.

ELECTRONIC BOOKMARKS

Although Digigraphic is being secretive about all the features found in its CDTV *Living Books*, here are a few intriguing glimpses of what you'll find in the book of the future.

Graphics, computer animation and full motion video of any size and display mode (including images Dynamic Hires and sliced HAM modes). "Animations will support multi-channel frame accurate audio synchronisation," says Digigraphic. You can also have unlimited video animation and audio length due to the fact that Digigraphic's electrobooks incorporate a disk read capability.

Living Books have powerful search facilities automatically built-in. You can search for animations, video, pictures and audio — which all have textual search tags. 'Hot' items are really handy. With the 'Hot Contents' page, you can select a chapter heading and immediately move to it. 'Hot Index' presents you with a list of all the references in the Living Book. And things really get interactive with 'Hot Words' — words on a page which can be selected and cross-referenced to other sections of the Living Book or glossary. Electronic Bookmarks

let you move freely across references throughout a *Living Book* – you can then backtrack to the start point and continue 'reading'. Every line of the text can be magnified for people with impaired sight. A 'Narration' reads the text out loud.

"Living Book Publisher allows a fully interactive book to be developed from start to finish within a single environment," explains Digigraphic.

Lee Gibson at Digigraphic says, "Everyman's Technology Living Book will cover many aspects of technology from ball-point pens to satellites – explaining their operation and use. Some of the areas covered include: communications, entertainment, industry, medical and military. Each chapter will be illustrated with graphics, animations and motion video. This application is being produced concurrently with the publishing system giving us feedback on the functionality level and problems encountered with a full CDTV production". A CDI version of the Living Book is also likely.

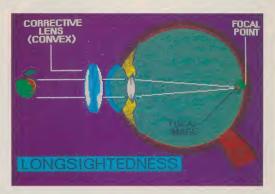
What reading material would you like to see in *Living Book* form? Write to ACE and we'll pass your ideas onto Digigraphic... you never know, you could be 'playing' an interactive version of the *Amiga Hardware Reference Manual* next year! Send your ideas and comments to: LIVING BOOKS, ACE magazine, EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU.

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the healing powers of the leaves from aspirin is created synthetically we laboratories. Aspirin is taken I swallowing. The solid form of the is swallowed whole while the synthetic form is dissolved in water. Aspirin reduces fever by corolling the body temerature within

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A page from a Living Book... just click on the graphic box for a part- or full-screen animation with narration or music.









PC RES 101

UPDATES

Latest conversions this month for PC, ST, Amiga, and Spectrum

ST

tion caption caption caption

PC

RESOLUTION 101 Millenium £24.99; Atari ST version reviewed issue 34; ACE Rating 917

It is the year 2038. A dangerous time to be living. A time when the unruly rule. In a last bid to combat this deadly reign of crime, the Government instigate a law known as resolution 101, whereby any criminal may receive amnesty for past misdemeanours by successfully tracking down other criminals. Reviewed in issue 34, the ST version of Resolution 101 was hailed as "aggressive, bracing, crisp, devious...." amongst other superlatives. Fast 3-D, well executed graphics and gameplay saw the game ACE rated. Fortunately, the transition to PC has seen a retention of all these good points - unfortunately those aspects that were below par have also remained. The gaudy colour scheme does nothing to enhance what should be a dingy, oppressive atmosphere and sound may accurately be described as dire. Having said that, gameplay is the important factor and Res 101 has plenty of that to hold your interest. If you're into fast-thinking, fast-acting software, you'd be hard pushed to find anything better that this - for now at least.

PC Rating: 900

SHADOW OF THE BEAST Psygnosis £24.99; Amiga version reviewed Issue 25;ACE Rating 885

Some 12 months after the original classic, Psygnosis' 'Beast finally makes it onto the ST. But to what degree of success? Fortunately for ST owners, Beast is virtually indistinguishable from the Amiga classic in every detail and although the original review stated that as an (at the time) Amiga only product, Beast would not have to suffer the confines of the ST, these restrictions would appear to have fallen by the way-

side. The only noticeable differences are onscreen colours, which have been marginally toned-down and scrolling, whilst although not pixel perfect, does not detract from gameplay. The digitised sound is of high quality, (something many recent ST products cannot claim) with the melodies remaining as haunting as ever. The main criticism of Beast on the ST, is one that was levelled at the original, in that the difficulty presented by certain sections considerably outweighs that of others, (for example, many of the enemies may be felled with a single blow, whereas taking a wrong turn may bring you face to face with an insurmountable foe!) Other than this ST owners are in for a technically excellent and playable product. An audio-visual treat that appears to have aged very well in the face of competition. Well worth a look.

ST RATING: 815

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ST Shadow Caption caption caption caption caption caption caption caption cap

ST Team Yankee

AMIGA

RESOLUTION 101 Millenium £24.99; Atari ST version reviewed Issue 34; ACE Rating 917

Playing identically to the other versions, but with a slightly improved screen update. Graphics remain unchanged (colour is still slightly gaudy) being well designed but having rather less menace about them than I would have imagined. Sound FX have vastly improved over both ST and PC versions, but unfortunately the in-game music is less than fitting. Still however, a game worth buying.

AMIGA RATING: 924

TEAM YANKEE Empire £24.99; Amiga version reviewed Issue 38;ACE Rating 893

Empire's tactical tank sim makes it to the ST in a form virtually indistinguishable from that of the Amiga. Placing you in control of four platoons

each containing four tanks, the game is most noteable for its completely independant screen displays, allowing simultaneous control of each platoon. Graphics are identical to the Amiga-fast moving bitmapped sprites on a smooth scrolling scenery. The only real difference is in the sound department - perhaps inevitable - which is rather more grating on the ST.

Otherwise, Team Yankee is as good a tank sim as you are likely to find on the ST.

ST RATING:879



Spectrum Turricar

SPECTRUM

TURRICAN Rainbow Arts £8.95; Amiga version reviewed Issue 35; ACE rating 912

The original version of this arcade adventure was perhaps the best arcade blast yet seen on the Amiga. The quality of gameplay and presentation were as near to arcade perfect as any game of its genre. The Spectrum version cannot hope to emulate that quality. Limitations aside, Rainbow Arts have successfully managed to

cram in all the features of the 16-bit version and although this inevitably makes *Turrican* a multiload, this is of little consequence. Graphics are colourful (if a little blocky), move well and the play area is huge. The internal speaker is used with successful results and the game as a whole whilst perhaps not groundbreaking, retains the playability of the original.

SPECTRUM RATING: 871



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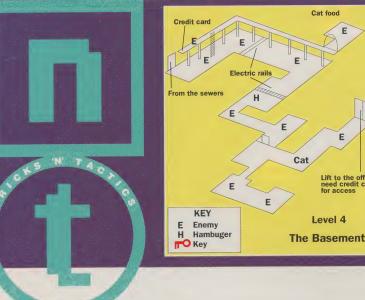
For those of you who have been cursing last month's subtle omission of the Drakkhen tips, rest easy with part three of the complete guide to this epic title. Rollin'....

efore flinging yourself headlong into the quest proper, it is necessary to have elevated some of your party to higher levels to ensure that any progress is made at all! In order to succeed in Drakkhen, the printed solution should be followed exactly and the game saved regularly - (never save a game if you have lost a character, as all of them are needed). Oh and as a matter of interest, the tears of the quest's title are actually the gems worn on the heads of the Drakkhen Prince and Princess.

One piece of advice - when inside the Drakkhen palaces it is often quicker to explore with one or two characters rather than the whole group, but be sure that at least one character has the ability to open locked doors using magic. When moving about, be sure that the remaining party members are ready to cast protection or invisibility



Ovez! Ovez! All hail the return (at last) of the Adam Morley solution to Drakkhen -"The Quest For Tears" - in addition to the fourth part of Jons' Guide to Hacking, infinite energy in Shadow of the Beast 2 and much more...



Rounding off our serialisation of maps for System 3's Last Ninja II, we have levels four to seven inclusive. The story so far finds our Ninja in the basement....



Enter Prince Hordtkhen's palace, remembering to wait until the shark's fin has passed under the bridge and emerged to your right. Operate the symbol between the two doorways in the wall facing you and enter the central doorway, leading to the first floor.

tom left of the room. With luck you'll find yourself in Prince Hordtkhen's bed chamber, face to face with the man himself. Whatever you do, DON'T go into combat mode or he'll zap you. Behind him you will find a suit of armour; take it and retreat towards the door through which you came. Before leaving, question the Prince twice. He will tell you to take a message to his sister this is your cue to leave as the Prince is easily offended, so don't hang about.

STAGE TWO

Leave the palace and travel east towards Princess Hordtkha's palace. Enter and you will find that the place has been attacked. Return to the Prince's castle at once (as instructed by a servant) and make straight for his room, remembering to disable the combat mode. He will be angered by the news you bring but will help you nevertheless, sending you to Prince Haaggkhen's palace where he thinks his sister is being held.

Whew, and that's only about one fifth of the complete solution! Back with more instalments nex' munf.



Mmmm...nice. The Quest for Tears has been on hold for some time but it's back with a bang. Here, a lovely selection of garments from the fantasy collection, sported by your party.

spells should they be attacked. It is in fact a good idea for all characters to move around in this state, as when an enemy appears the spells are cast automatically and the players enter combat mode.

Here goes with the first two stages....

Having killed the lizard, use the warrior to enter the room on the left and dispose of the Drakh soldier. Unlock the door in the left wall. Don't allow any of the weaker characters to stray too close to the opening in the left wall of this room as it possesses a nasty bite!

OP STEALTH

Select a character other

than the leader, disable the

through the door at the bot-

combat mode and enter

In last weeks episode, Secret Agent John Glames had just cheated death by starvation, suffocation and possibly boredom. Having escaped one hideous doom, Glames continues shaken, but not stirred, in his search for the mysterious Stealth fighter...

aving completed the arcade sequence, you should make your way back to the bank and exit the screen bottom left. You should now see a man on the beach, whom you should speak to.

USE the coins on the man.

You should now have been given a bracelet.

Go up the steps and back to the hotel. Once inside, SPEAK to the receptionist.

MASTERBLAZER Takes 3D sports action to a new height of realism. A sequel to the illustrious Ballblazer by Lucasfilm games, Masterblazer utilises the advanced capabilities of 16 bit machines to create another classic. A high speed space age soccer game is played using ultra-fast, responsive hovercrafts in the splendour of futuristic scenarios or you can hurtle round a race track full of obstacles. The state of the s THE THERETHER THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED I Ultra smooth 3D graphics. Rainbow 1 or 2 player mode. 8 players Tournament mode. Each format individually programmed to achieve the Ballblazer (c) 1985 Lucasfilm Games. best results. Amazing graphics and a spectacular introductory AMIGA - ST - IBM PC £24.99 sequence. Surperb computer generated sound effects. TEL: 0322 92513/18 FAX: 0322 9342

Th ior for

Jo

ing

Yay



Go through the door on the right and up the stairs to the third floor.

Walk left to the end of the corridor. SAVE the game at this point.

OPERATE the door. AAAGH!... You will now be captured.

THE SECOND ESCAPE

TM

You should now find yourself on a boat in the company of some less than friendly people.

OPERATE the bracelet - it should begin to whistle at which point you will be er... thrown overboard.

Upon reaching the sea-bed OPERATE the bracelet.

Swim over to the girl (very quickly). OPERATE girl.

You should now swim to the surface and be automatically saved...

Will Glames get the girl, will Glames succeed in his mission and who the Hell is Will Glames? All these questions and more, will be answered in next months undercover issue of ACE.

CITADEL

For your delight and delectation, here's the continuing saga of Jon's guide to hacking, missed in last month's issue due to T'n'T changing hands. Retribution will be served... or something like that.

quick look at my notes reminded me to go back and check out the mysterious subtracts I had found. First were the ones that took zero away from locations and executed as the traps opened. The subtracts are told to do something useful by another part of the program and seem to spend a lot of their time subtracting three, but that isn't important.

Obviously these offending beasts are connected to the routine that opens the traps. To prevent the traps opening, I traced the program backwards

to a conditional branch at which the program below it executes only as a trap opens, whilst the program above it executes continuously. Once I have found that, I need to find stores into the location that makes the condition 'open trap X' true, and neutralise them.

After tracing back for some time I ended up somewhere in the middle of a routine that makes sure the on screen display of your lives does not spill above nine when you obtain an extra. This indicated very strongly that I was totally lost. Instead of making my way forward from where I was, I startstupid mistake, took out the ol' doobrey, re-entered the wassizits traps shut. After a thorough test, it turned out that if I completed a level after NOT letting the traps open from the very start, then the traps on the following level REFUSED to open when I removed the cheat, a problem I shall solve later on.

The other subtracts were executed when you warped a level and when you changed sides. If I trace the code back I can find the condition that must be true to make the player warp to the other side of the level, in this code will be another condition that indicates the player has finished had some fun swapping sides in silly places. I traced the code forward until I found a promising looking branch and by making both the appropriate the next level at any time.

much more rummaging about to be done. I would like to find the bit that gives your energy back when you collect the appropriate pod. I know the location for the players' energy, so a hunt for the increment instruction should do the trick. There is only one occurrence of energy incrementation and it appears in a bit of code that

- What sort of number is X?
- If player has less than 16 energy then GOTO program INCENG.
- Make X positive.
- Initialise 'pling' sound. INCENG: Add one to player's energy

ed from scratch. I found my name and now, Citadel keeps

> the level. I did the business and conditions true, I could jump to

Right then, now there isn't looks like this:

- If it is positive then GOTO the rest of the program.

SHADOW OF THE **BEAST 2**

This game, in our opinion, is just too difficult for most gamesters. Thanks, therefore, to Joost den Hartog of Holland for the following...

hen starting the game, run right until you meet the first man who tells you to "Halt...!". When he does so, press "A" and enter "TEN PINTS" (with space) for infinite energy. Yay! And Psygnosis tell us that the gameplay features get sexier and sexier as you progress - so this cheat could open up new worlds of addiction for you.



..... Rest of the Program.

This program is executed at the same rate as your energy increases. You can probably see that making X (in this case location \$20ED) a negative number starts the energy increasing cycle. In my travels I also found a number of stores to the location that holds the player energy level. One of them is among a sequence of forty successive stores to various memory locations in the game setup sequence. It took me about two minutes to reduce the code to 63% of its original size. Another thing I found was that a cheeky little fellow among the energy stores neatly steals energy from your craft as you innocently buy weapons, but I soon put a stop to his game.

Well, that's all the room we've got for in this months' instalment. The next listing will follow as soon as we can shoehorn it in...

XENOMORPH

Back for the attack with the continuing solution to Pandora's space odyssey - this month, tips for levels four to six and the map for level four.

LEVEL 4

There is nothing on this level that you could possi-

bly want, with the exception of the card. The best tactic is to grab it and run back to level 3, due to the fact that there is an alien of indestructible proportions on the lurk! Once on level 3, walk to ladder I, take the RL ammo and move on down to level 5.

LEVEL 5

The six marauding aliens here mean that you must be prepared to move fast and accurately - no time for mistakes! Run to area 8 and pick up all six objects that you find there (opposite the entrance). Once collected, run out REMEMBERING TO CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU. When you've time to breathe, drop your old clothes (ahem!) and don those you have just collected. Go to area 9, (but be ready to blast the two aliens you'll encounter on the way) and

XENOMORPH Level 3 Maintenance ducts 1

take both RL bullets from the Anti-Grav Units. Find the maintenance area and pick up all the chips you need. (Just in case you're hungry it, there's food in area 10.) Go to ladder K, and down to level 6.

LEVEL 6

This level is entirely safe from nasties. All you need to do is collect the chips; card; battery; food and the charge for your gun. Having done so, it's back up to level 5 where you should go to area 11. Collect everything and make your way to area 12. Blast those nasties, walk to ladder L where you'll find a grenade. Take it and go down to level 7....

More next month. Until then you'll just have to struggle bleary-eyed through the long evenings on your own!



THUNDERBLADE II Sega Master System

When the 'GAME OVER' message is displayed, press button 2, down and right simultaneously, to award yourself two 'continue' options.

Back with a vengeance after a spell in purgatory. Tips for the Beasts from the East...

GOLDEN AXE Sega Megadrive

On the character select screen, hold down button B and pull down and left diagonally to reveal round select.

NEMESIS Gameboy

Begin play and press 'start' to pause. Press up, up, down,





Two tranquil scenes from the Megadrive interpretation of the delicate Golden Axe.

down, left, right, left, right, B, A. You should now find you have every weapon with the exception of speed-ups!

THE CASTLEVANIA ADVENTURE

Gameboy

How to gain the hidden extra

Level One

Obtain a whip (for later) and shoot the torch with the fireball. The 1UP should fall to the ground.

Level Two

Jump across all three moving platforms, but do not use

your whip whilst you are in the air. Presto, an extra life.

Level Three

Wait for the ceiling to fall, then hit the tower four times, making sure the last strike is very late. Run back to the torch, jump and whip it to collect the extra life.

Mizanur Rahman. North Humberside

DRAGON BALL

When your energy begins to run low, pressing DOWN on the 2nd controller replenishes it, while Pressing B on the 2nd controller allows you to skip lovels.

Jody Goodall. Manchester Well, it's goodnight from me, and it's goodnight from me. My sincere apologies to all those who were expecting the solutions to Op Stealth, Chaos Strikes Back and Xenomorph. What can I say, down from five pages to three! Slaughtered in my prime! But the editor assures me that next month we'll be back up

Thanks to all those who contributed tips. Keep 'em coming (especially the consoles) - ACE needs YOU!

to size....



DOUBLE DARE YOU.

Blue Max

ACES OF THE GREAT WAR

WWI Air Combat Simulation

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ake control of one of eight classic WWI fighters and find out how good you really are. Fly with the best—Richthofen, Fonck, Mannock, Rickenbacher—and learn their tricks and techniques.

- Action dogfight, solo, and team missions for one or two players using a single computer with any combination of keyboard, joystick, or mouse.
- Strategy Dogfight: For the skilled purist, Blue Max acts like a highly-intelligent strategic board game, allowing you and your opponent to work out detailed battle sequences and play back the moves in "realtime" 3D.
- 8 airplanes to choose from, each with its own highly-detailed flying characteristics.
- Perform missions with, as, or against the Aces of the Great War.
- Dozens of historical missions around 4 different locations within France.

How strong are your nerves at 2,000 feet, with an armed Fokker DR.I on your tail? Forget glory, friend. Think survival.



VGA 256
 3D COLOR GRAPHICS,
 ORIGINAL MUSIC,
SOUND EFFECTS FOR GAME
BLASTER, ADLIB
SYNTHESIZER
CARDS

DAS BOOT

GERMAN U-BOAT SIMULATION

inter, 1941. The icy waters of the North Atlantic. The deeper you dive, the greater the pressure. Depth charges explode around you, banging on the hull of your U-boat like iron fists. Nerve and cunning make you the terror of the Allied convoys.

- 3D submarine warfare: For the first time, a sub warfare game lets
 you deal with threats below and above the surface in a true three
 dimensional environment.
- Real communications: Use the German Enigma coding machine to send and receive information.
- Many missions to choose from—into the North Atlantic and Arctic, inland along the coast of Norway, into the Bay of Biscay, and through the Straits of Gibralter.
- 3 different levels of difficulty, from beginner to realistic.
- 3D graphics in 256 VGA colors, with multiple internal and external camera views in a complete 3D world.

Do you think well under pressure? How about 300 pounds per square inch of pressure? Take a deep breath, captain....



VGA 256 color mine field under North Atlantic





M

D

S

C

VGA periscope

aircraft

A

P

F

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For further information on Mindscape products and new releases please call: 0898 234214

4 FOOTBALL FANATICS





FOOTBALL MANAGER 2

An all time great from Kevin Toms, inventor of the world's greatest selling football game. Man to man marking, choice of formations and substitutions, tackling crosses and tackling, crosses and diving goalkeepers, Football Manager 2 is full of action with spectacular graphics.

creen shots from various formats.



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GAZZA'S SUPER SOCCER

Gazza mania is about to hit your computer screen! Realistic Ball



control allowing you to chip, curl or dribble through the opposition, maybe one day you'll have the skill of Gasgoine himself.



FOOTBALL MANAGER-WORLD CUP EDITION Enter the international

arena with a World Class game from Kevin Toms. This will be the chance for you to manage the national team into sporting history.





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MICROPROSE SOCCER

Football crazy, football mad, this will challenge your skills right from the kick off. With features that range from overhead kicks to an overhead view of the pitch, you'll play for much longer than extra time.

Available on:-	The second second
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CBM64/128	Disk £16.99
Amstrad	Tape £14.99
Amstrad	Disk £16.99
Atari ST	£24.99
Amiga	£24.99





Twelve months earlier Ernieware had produced a game called *The Evolution*; a fact I remember only too well because I was the only British journalist who bothered to review it. It was a solid but uninspiring example of a now thankfully defunct genre, the computerised block-shift puzzle. It did pave the way for this highly addictive development though.

Ruud and Ernest Peske produced a neat little game for Domark which was to bring the fledgeling company one of its first major successes...not to mention threats of legal

John Minson gets schizophrenic as he rearranges some famous people's faces.

BREAKIN' UP IS HARD TO DO

Split Personalities, as it was later called (see box), was a distinct evolution from *The Evolution*. The aim was simple; rearrange squares in a five by four grid to create jigsaw portraits of various luminaries, from Maggie to Ronnie Reagan, Sir Clive Sinclair (in the days of the Spectrum something of a star himself) to Alan Sugar, Bogart to Monroe. All of this was against a time limit, naturally.

The real development came with the addition of novelty tiles which caused random events, ranging from the merely inconvenient to the downright terminal or, if you got lucky, the beneficial. Just as special bricks turned mundane old *Breakout* into endlessly addictive *Arkanoid*, these bonus



Cursor control in Splitting Images made selecting blocks easy. You just placed it over the piece you wanted to move then twitched the joystick in the relevant direction. The section slid away until it hit the wall or another block.

HALL OF FAME

How does a game qualify for the Hall of Fame? It may have been a best seller in its day or overlooked and underrated. But one thing's for certain, it led the field, either creatively or technically. Clones don't qualify, however competent. And it's got lasting appeal. It's the program you still want to play after years - not weeks. So if you've got any suggestions, drop us a line.

"Never come such division 'tween our souls!"

Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

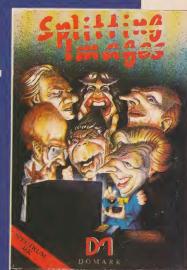
RUBBER (LEGAL) SUITS

Until Split Personalities, Domark was best known for its massively hyped prize adventure Eureka and the lost opportunity of the first Bond licence View To A Kill. When Ernieware's demo cassette arrived it contained pictures of a standard hitherto unseen on the Spectrum. Domark delight doubled when they were told there was a game to go with the graphics.

Ever deferential, and probably with an eye to possible knighthoods, Dominic and Mark checked with Buck House whether the Queen would like to appear. The answer was a frosty 'no', but Chuck and Di were delighted and Andy and Fergie left it to the Dom's discretion – after all, they could always cart them off to the tower if they disapproved.

Less lenient were the latex lawyers of Spitting Image, who complained about the similarity between the program's original title (Splitting Images) and their satirical show. So in a matter of days the game gained a new name (Split Personalities) and the packaging was redesigned. The gameplay stayed the same though and remains to this day a demonstration of how addictive a simple brainteasing formula can be.

The original packaging for Split Personalities - the Spitting Image team thought the name was the spitting image of their own and Domark retitled the program....



blocks gave a whole new dimension to an ancient formula and transformed it from a mere micro version of a Christmas cracker novelty into a real computer game.

On pressing fire, the tiles popped out of the top left of the frame along an empty row which could hold four squares. If you obtained part of the picture all you had to do was manouevre it into place with relevant twitches of the joystick, sliding it as far as it would go, left or right, up or down.

Any sections which appeared too soon, such as the top left of the picture which was irrelevant early on, could be shoved through doors in either side and at the bottom of the frame to join the back of the queue. On the lower levels the doors opened and shut but as things got harder they remained open, making it all too easy to lose a piece you needed. You could also inadvertently shove a piece off the play area by banging into it with another one. And there were cracks in the walls which zapped squares on impact. The doors were also required to deal with dangerous special tiles, such as the bomb which fizzed for five seconds before it blew up, taking one of your three lives. Disposing of it in the early stages was usually easy but if you had half a picture built you could find the exits blocked. Even then you may have held disposal to the last second because hitting it with a tap tile not only neutralised it but also generated a 5000 point bonus.

There were other special benefits from bashing tiles together. A collision between two diamonds put the clock back by up to a minute and a bullet and pistol combined to double your bonus. The destructive effects of match meeting petrol can are easily imagined though.

Naturally everything became more frantic as the levels progressed with more special squares appearing and increasingly inconvenient doors. But it offered perfectly balanced playability, so that each time you got that bit further... and just had to have another go!



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in the

126 ACE Charts

The best charts around - based not on hyped sales but reviewer's ratings in ALL UK magazines. Not only that, but there are prizes to be won as readers attempt to predict next month's entries.

155 Joystick Judgements

Want a new stick for Christmas? Mark Smiddy presents the definitive guide, complete with switching info and prices.

159 Hot off the Shelf

Christmas is coming and the aunts are gathering in the sitting room. Time to sneak upstairs with a new game. Alex Ruranski with the titles, currently in the shops, that belong in your collection.

131 Hard Sell

Hardware and software facts about the current crop of 16-bit machines for those of you planning an upgrade this Christmas.

139 Direct Line

...to YOUR micro. If you own one of the ten major micros or consoles, there's a section for your computer here as ACE correspondents talk man to machine...

153 Competition Winners

If you've entered any of our recent competitions, you could be due for a prize. Check your luck out here

173 ACE Crossword

The infamous ACE Crossward offers you a chance to practise your wordskills and win a prize into the bargain

161 Adventureline

Pat Winstanley with her regular tips section for dedicated adventurers.

147 The ACE Diary

Our monthly guide to what's on where and what's out when

166 Shopwatch

Dirk Longhorn with a view from the other side of the counter...

176 Encyclopaedia Micromannica!

Over the years ACE has consistently given gamesters the low down on entertainment technology. Check out the subjects we've covered in the past and make sure you're up to date

175 PD Update

Mark Smiddy with another selection of cheap software

174 ACE Readers Pages

Small ads, big sales. Your chance to buy, sell and tell the world.

ACE has brought you nearly 40 issues, all packed with info on games technology. If you're missing any back issues – such as this one, covering the Philips CD-I machine – then check out page 176



ACE CHARTS

The ACE Charts give you the definitive list of top scoring games EVERY MONTH - as reviewed by ALL British games magazines.

Well, this month not quite all the magazines, because sadly our charts compiler has had to go into hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery and, in the meantime, she's still managed to include almost all the mags in her survey.

If you're new to this section, you should know that each month we print the top five games, as reviewed in the latest editions of computer magazines, for each of the main computer formats. Because these charts are based on review ratings around the country, they make an excellent buyers' guide....

We also give prizes awa each month to anyone who can predict next month' entries. You can win up to £150 worth of software for your machine, so it's always worth exercising your vast knowledge of software market trend and submitting an entry.

Because software prizes have to be ordered from third parties, there are inevitably some delays in delivery. But if you experience ANY disappointments, please phone the Editor on 071 251 6222 Ext 2467 and we'll put it right.

Don't forget!

You can win a prize by predicting next month's charts and stockmarket entries. See opposite for full details. **Latest winners** announced on page 153.

ner!

THE STOCKMARKET

In addition to our games charts, we also have a bit of fun with the figures each month when we produce the ACE Stockmarket. It's a list of the top 25 softcos as determined by the ratings their games are currently receiving. You can see their fortunes rising and falling in each issue.

First, we calculate the average mark that each publisher receives for every one of its games on each format: this is the rating in the second column below. So, for example, if the company is great at sourcing 16-bit games but botches up its 8-bit conversions, that will pull down the average mark, even if you can see one of its titles heading up the Amiga, ST or PC charts. If all the games are excellent, or if the company has just one brilliant program doing the rounds at the moment, it will have a high rating. The third column, labelled '+ or -', shows you how much the publisher's score has improved (or deteriorated) compared to last month.

The last column shows how well a company's games have fared compared to the Software Index. This single figure represents the average review mark (expressed as a percentage) that all games, all formats, received during the last month. It's a quick guide to how good the current crop of titles is, and each company's Index score shows how well their games compare to the norm. For example, in this month's chart, Core Design's current titles are worth 9.11 percentage points above average - according to the industry's reviewers.

We print only the top 25 companies each month. In fact, we keep tabs on all of them, but you don't want to read through a list of over 100 names in every issue.The asterisks by The Sales Curve and Klassix's names indicates that these are brand new entries to the Stock Market company counter.

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s genuinel	ke care that y useful. To panies whi	that e	Rising sharply - and the big Chri titles are just around the corn			
ed a singl	e solitary re	view.				
ICHED	SCORE	+/-	INDEX	Smash 16	81.5	n/a

PUBLISHER	SCORE	+/-	INDEX	Smash 16	81.5	n/a	6.11
	93.75	-3.75	18.36	Activision	80.75	+11.49	5.36
Magnetic Scrolls				UbiSoft	79.17	+11.22	3.78
Gremlin	87.88	+14.38	12.49		79.14	-5	3.75
Cinemaware	86.7	+0.7	11.31	Virgin		_	
Microprose	86.33	-3.55	10.94	Accolade	78.42	+14.59	3.03
Electronic Arts	86.1	+7.27	10.71	Dinamic	78	+19	2.61
	85.5	+4.43	10.11	Domark	77.94	+0.41	2.55
Mindscape	85	+9.33	9.61	Software Business	77.5	+0.87	2.11
Hit Squad				*Klassix	77.5	n/a	2.11
Micro Style	84.98	+5.27	9.59			+14.44	1.78
Empire	84.58	+4.08	9.19	Thalion	77.17		
Core Design	84.5	+1.83	9.11	Zeppelin	77	+17.75	1.61
	82.44	n/a	7.05	US Gold	76.38	+3.95	0.99
*Sales Curve		•	6.61	Millennium	75.5	+6.96	0.11
Cartoon Time	82	n/a	0.01	minorinani			

AMIGA

Mindscape Microprose F19 Stealth Fighter Ocean Pang M. House Supremacy Simulcra Microprose

Supremacy takes a drop and F19 climbs one place, although its rating hasn't changed from last month. Captive should still be in there in next month's chart, but there are still some hotties coming up for Christmas.

CDS **Complete Games Centre Cartoon Time** Olli and Lissa 3 Krisalis Lords of Chaos ACE/ACE 2 **Encore Code Masters Quattro Power**

The budget games take over in the C64 chart this month, with CDS's compilation at the top. Let's hope we get some strong full price product this Christmas for a machine that still deserves a lot of support.

AMSTRAD CPC

UbiSoft Iron Lord Virgin **Monty Python Code Masters Quattro Sports UbiSoft Night Hunter** UbiSoft **Skate Wars**

Ubi Soft threatens to take over on the CPC (probably reflecting the continuing strength of the machine in France), with Iron Lord indisputably the critic's choice this month.

IBM PC

4D Boxing Wonderland Midwinter Breach 2 Search for the King Mindscape **Magnetic Scrolls** Rainbird **Impressions** Accolade

Wonderland is still getting rave reviews, but Mindscape's novel approach to 4D Boxing seems to have wowed everyone. Some high-scoring games around on the PC, but not much strength in depth.

WHAT THE FIGURES ABOVE MEAN...

First, of course, you've got the game. Then the software house and - in the last column - the average score (converted to a percentage with typical ACE precision to two decimal places) the game received in ALL reviews during the last month. Don't forget that the review ratings are taken from all UK magazines, not just ACE, so we don't necessarily agree with some of the judgements here, but all review ratings are, to a certain extent, subjective.

SPECTRUM AND ST CHARTS OPPOSITE

HOW TO ENTER

STEP ONE

Find a postcard. Enter you name and address, a daytime telephone number if you have one, and the Round Number.

STEP TWO

Tell us your age and which machine you own. Just in case you win!

STEP THREE

Examine this month's charts. Then, using your knowledge of the games scene, try to predict which games will come top of the six machine specific charts. Finally, enter on your post-

- the top game for the Spectrumthe top game for the C64
- the top game for the CPC's
- the top game for the IBM PC
- the top game for the Amiga
- the top game for the ST

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ENTER A SUGGES-TION FOR EVERY MACHINE! But remember that your chances of winning may increase if you do.

STEP FOUR (OPTIONAL)

You can also try to predict which company will be at the top of next month's Stockmarket listing (see this page). Enter on the card: 'The top softco will be...(name of company)'

STEP FIVE (OPTIONAL)

If you want to go for the jackpot £150 prize, then select any of the previous categories and

try to predict the top FIVE entries for next month instead of just the top one. Then tell us which category you're predicting for - it can be either the Stockmarket or any of the machine categories in Step Three. REMEMBER - YOU CAN ONLY SUBMIT ONE JACKPOT CAT-

STEP SIX

Post the card (WITH a stamp!) to us to arrive not later than the closing date for this round (31st November). The address is:

ACE Stockmarket 30-32 Farringdon Lane London EC1R 3AU

Dozens have won prizes - perhaps you'll be lucky this time!

THIS IS **ROUND 13**

Each month's competition has a round number so that we can correctly identiry entries. You MUST include the round number on your postcard otherwise your entry may not be processed correctly.

LATEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED **ON PAGE 153!**

THE RULES

- All entries must be received by November 31st 1990.
 No employees of EMAP, or of any company involved in the production, distribution, or sale of ACE Magazine are eligible for entry.
 Only one entry per household. Proof of posting not held as proof of delivery.
 We cannot undertake to deliver specific software titles as prizes, but rest assured that we will make every effort to ensure that the games get the adrenalin pumping!

ATARI ST

Cadaver Image Works **Operation Stealth Delphine/US Gold** Rick Dangerous II **Firebird** Simulcra Micro Style Int'l Soccer Challenge Micro Style

Lots of top-notch stuff to choose form on the ST this month, with the Bitmaps' Cadaver edging Operation Stealth off the top spot.

SPECTRUM

Ivan Ironman Stewart Virgin Satan **Dinamic** Nightbreed Ocean Salamander **Hit Squad** 4x4 Off Rd Racing Kixx

game look even better than the reviews

Here's hoping the overall quality of Spectrum product improves as we get closer to Christmas - makes Virgin's racing



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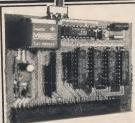
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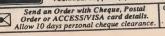
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ACORN ARCHIMEDES

Models: Archimedes 310, 3000, 410 420, 440

Package: keyboard, mouse and drive: keyboard mouse and drive plus monitor (colour or mono); Memory: 3000 512K; 310 1Mb; 410 1Mb; 420 2Mb; 440 4Mb Processor: Acorn ARM **RRP:** Prices range from £789.97 for A3000 alone to £2644.60 for A440

with colour monitor

Contact: Acorn 0223 245200

Still the cutting edge of micro technology. Acorn's ARM is about the fastest thing this side of a Cray. This very exciting machine - although gathering admirers since the introduction of the A3000 - still lacks a good games software base and is best left to the enthusiast.

GRAPHICS

Resolution: 320 x 256 or 640 x 256 with normal monitors. 640 x 512 available with multi-sync monitors. Palette: 4096

Colours: From mono up to 256 (320 x 256) or 16 (640 x 512).

Monitor Output: Mono composite video: colour - RGB + sync. Monitor Supplied: Depends on package bought.

Monitor Options: Acorn dedicated 14 inch medium res. colour; 12 inch high res mono; Multi-sync colour. Sprites: 1 Speed: Blistering.

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Good MIDI: With extra hardware. Stereo Output: Yes

Performance: 16 channels (8 stereo pairs); 6 octaves, 1 internal speaker.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 3.5 inch - 800K Disk Price: From £1.20 upwards. Disk Performance: Good and fast. Keyboard: 103 keys with programmable auto-repeat. Early keyboards have a cheap feel given the quality of the machine.

Joystick/Mouse: 3 button mouse; n support for joysticks.

Interfaces: 25 pin D parallel; 9 piN mouse; 3.5mm stereo headphone jack; 64 way din; 41612 expansion port; IEC 320 video outlet; I/O inter-

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: Still very limited. Some games available most software is for productivity and busi-

Current Releases: See above. Games: Most famous are Zarch (Virus) and Conqueror. But there have been several impressive one-off titles released recently.

Graphics: Potential is enormous. Some excellent packages available Music: Like graphics, but developers remain shy.

Prospects: Limited. Even the cheaper models find it tough competing with STs and Amigas.

Software Loading: Very reliable.

BUYLINES

Best Buy Price: As RRP Second Hand Availability: Still scarce, some 305 and 310s starting to appear but expect to pay for them. Maintenance: One year's guarantee. Return to faulty machines deal-

APPLE MACINTOSH

Models: SE; SE30; IIcx, IIci Package: Monitor with built-in CPU and disk drive, separate keyboard Memory: 1Mb

Processor: SE Motorola 68000; Ilcx 68882; Ilci Motorola 68030

Recommended Retail Price: SE £2,195 upwards; II £3540 upwards (all ex VAT)

Contact: Apple 081-569-1199

IN BRIEF

A very expensive up-market machine for those keen on ultra user friendly computing. Software is very expensive. Quite a few games in the US, but few over here. Good for MIDI musicians. Watch out, however, for a new budget Mac, believed to be launching in the New Year..

GRAPHICS

Resolution: SE 512 x 342; II 10027 x

Palette: SE - black and white; II (with colour monitor) 16 million. Colours: With colour monitor - 16 to 256

TV: No

Monitor Output: Integral monitor. Monitor Supplied: Built-in Monitor Options: SE - use dedicate model only; Il Apple hi-res monochrome or AppleColor hi-res

Sprites: None

Speed: SE reasonably fast; Il very fast.SE30 and IIX/CX even faster; IIci

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Good MIDI: Third party interfaces avail-

Stereo Output: SE no; Il yes. Performance: 4 channels give good performance.

Disk Format: 3.5 inch - 800K

HARDWARE

Disk Price: £1.50 - £2.00 Disk Performance: Generally fast Keyboard: Separate with 81 keys including function keys and numeric key pad. Optional extra is the Apple Extended keyboard with 105 keys. Joystick/Mouse: Joystick is not supported; high-quality single button mouse is supplied with machine.

Interfaces: SE/SE30 - Apple Desktop Bus connector. 2 RS232/RS422 serial; external disk drive; 96 pin Euro-Din expansion slot; SCSI - DB-25 connector; external audio amplifier. II - 2 RS232/RS422 serial; DB-25 SCSI T.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: A very wide base exists in all fields except

Current Releases: Adequate, though largely of US origin and in the business or DTP field.

Games: Very few arcade titles but plenty of icon driven adventures. Graphics: Lots of interesting software for those interested in DIY publishing.

Music: Very well supported for MIDI software - but it's expensive to

Prospects: As always, excellent especially in business and DTP. Software Loading: Quick and reli-

BUYLINES

Best Buy Price: Generally the RRP -Macs are only sold through dealerships. Ask for a discount for cash. Second Hand Availability: Scarce and expensive. A better market exists in older models but these are best avoided.

Maintenance: One year's guarantee. Apple offers Applecare - "insurance" you take out to cover the cost of repairs after the guarantee has

ATARI ST



Models: Atari 520STFM; 520STE; 1040STE; Mega STs; Stacy

Package: 520 and 1040 have keyboard with built-in disk drive; Mega versions have separate keyboard. Power Pack includes 520STE with light gun, joystick and £400 of "free" software. New "Discovery" pack includes similar value software to Power pack but with an STFM and an educational bent.

Memory: 520STFM and 520STE 512K; 1040STE 1Mb; Mega ST 1, 2 or 4Mb; Stacy 2 or 4Mb. STE machines expand internally to 4Mb.

Processor: Motorola 68000 **Recommended Retail Price:** 520STE (Power Pack) £399; 520STFM (Discovery Pack) £299; 1040STE £499; Stacy N/A Contact: Atari 0753 33344

Excellent as a general purpose home machine for games, small business and productivity. It's the number one choice for MIDI musicians. The ST's price still gives it a slight edge over the graphically more advanced Amiga. The new baby ST - Stacy - is tipped by Atari to be the musician's portable since it is a complete 2Mb or 4Mb ST with hard disk and mono

GRAPHICS

monitor in a small box.

Resolution: Low-res 320 x 200;

medium res 640 x 200; high-res 640 x 400

Palette: STFM 512; STE 4096; Stacy 2 Colours: Black and white in highres; 4 colours in medium-res; 16 in low-res.

TV: Yes. Not Stacy.

Monitor Output: STFM models only, others through TV modulator Monitor Supplied: No; Stacy has integral LCD monitor

Monitor Options: Atari monitors SM124 high-res mono; SC1442 med res colour.

Sprites: 1 Speed: Fast

NB High resolution display is only available on monochrome monitor; medium and low res displays only available on colour monitors or TVs. Blitter fitted to late STFMs (standard on STE) improves the GEM access.

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Depends on monitor.

MIDI: Yes

Stereo Output: STE only.

Performance: 3 channel sound is average to good depending on software. STE features 8 bit PCM sound but no current software uses it.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 3.5 inch - 720K Disk Price: £1.20 to £1.50 Disk Performance: Reliable and fast. Early machines were supplied with a single-sided disk drive.

Keyboard: 96 keys including 10 functions keys. Has a cheap feel which can be improved with third party spring kits.

Joystick/Mouse: 2 Joystick ports are standard; 2 button mouse is supplied with machine. Stacy is supplied with a trackball.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: Excellent. A few budget titles are starting to appear now.

Current Releases: None of the major software houses ignore the ST so it is well served with plenty of good software.

Games: Across the board. Graphics: Good with some excellent software to manipulate them. Music: Excellent. Plenty of sound samplers, editors and MIDI software make this the musician's choice.

Prospects: Very good, but the Amiga is currently the favourite with software houses in the UK and the ST has failed to capture a market in the States.

Software Loading: A hangover from the original machines is the 360K disk format which means few companies bother to supply doublesided disks. This means large games require two or more disks with all the tedious disk swapping this entails.

BUYLINES

Best Buy Price: As RRP. Watch out for the twice yearly bundles. Second Hand Availability: Very

common and quite cheap. STs do not hold their value well - beware very old, single sided machines.

Maintenance: One year's guarantee. Return to dealer if faulty.

COMMODORE AMIGA



Models: Amiga A500; A2000, A3000 Package: A500 has keyboard and built-in drive with separate PSU; A2000 has separate keyboard with built-in (fan assisted) PSU. Recently released A3000 is a very powerful machine indeed.

Memory: A500 512K; A2000 1M; A3000

Processor: 500/2000 Motorola 68000 A3000 68030 16 or 25Mhz **Recommended Retail Price: A500** fNA; A2000 £1236.25; Batman Pack £399.99; Flight of Fantasy Pack £399.99; Class Of The 90's pack £579.99; A3000 from £2659 Contact: 0628 878888

IN BRIEF

A stunning specification with custom chips to rival almost everything around, the Amiga is the first choice for the most exigent of games players and video professionals. After an initially shaky start the machine continues to sell extremely well and has overtaken the ST in the UK, though the latter machine still has a slightly larger installed base. The A3000 is a top-end workstation substitute; includes Workbench 2, featuring enhanced icons, file handling, and security features plus Amiga Vision, a multi-media programming tool. A3000 also comes in three configurations, ranging from a 16Mhz, 40Mbyte hard disk at £2659 to a 25/100 at £3610.

GRAPHICS

Resolution: From 320 x 200 to 640 x 400 (more possible in software) Palette: 4096

Colours: 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or 4096 TV: With modulator.

Monitor Output: SCART + composite video in monochrome.

Monitor Supplied: No Monitor Options: C1084 £349.99 Sprites: 16 in hardware + unlimited BOBS from soft/hardware.

Speed: Very fast with good soft-

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Depends on monitor.

MIDI: No. Third party interfaces available.

Stereo Output: 2 phono connec-

Performance: Among the best

around. Custom hardware squeezes 9 octaves of 8 bit digital sound into the four channels.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 3.5inch - 837K A3000: 40/100Mbyte hard disk formatted. Disk Price: £1.20 - £2.00 Disk Performance: Noisy and sluggish. Third party software is available to improve matters.

Keyboard: 94 keys. 10 function keys and separate cursor cluster. Joystick/Mouse: 2 button mouse supplied as standard.

Interfaces: Two Joystick/mouse; stereo audio; external disk drive(s); RS232 serial; Centronics parallel printer; SCART RGB/video; composite monochrome video; expansion bus (internal on A2000; 32-bit on A3000); clock/memory expansion on A500 only; internal PC expansion on A2000 and A3000.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: Similar to the ST.

Current Releases: Everyone's doing

Games: Something for everyone. Graphics: Quality and range is unsurpassed.

Music: Needs better support for MIDI. Internal sound software is well supported thanks to IFF standards. Prospects: Excellent.

Software Loading: Noisy but usually reliable. Plagued by viruses.

RUYLINES

ers.

Best Buy Price: Old Amiga 1000s can be picked up cheaply enough but these lacked the extra graphics modes of later models. Try to find a good value pack.

Second Hand Availability: Becoming common. Best buys are late Amiga 500s with Kickstart 1.2. Maintenance: One years guarantee. Return faulty machines to deal-

IBM PC



Model: IBM's PC was the first PC to be accepted in large quantities (not the first PC) and remains the standard by which all others are judged. There are hundreds of clones and variations including offerings from Amstrad, Atari and Commodore. In general, with PCs you pay for speed and better graphics standards. The extra money is worth it if you can afford it.

Package: Depends on the manufacturer although most are supplied with monitors. They can even be bought in kit form at no extra saving

Memory: Usually 512K or 640K. Can be anything from 64K to 1Mb+. Always go for a 640K model.

Processor: Intel 8088/8086 in base machine is sometimes replaces with the faster NEC V20/30. More expensive machines are based on Intel's much faster 286, 3865X, 386 and even the latest 486.

Recommended Retail Price: Can be picked up for as little as £299 for a "no frills" machine. With top-ofthe-range 486 based clones - and the official IBM versions - the sky's the limit. Look for a good EGA or VGA model for between £750 and £1200.

IN BRIEF

Superb value if you want the ultimate all-rounder, the PC still betrays its business origins. Almost every major software house now port their titles to the PC but these remain limited by the constraints of the basic (most common) machines - which means they tend to be limited in sound and graphics. Definitely NOT first choice if entertainment is your preferred use for computers, or if you cannot afford the better EGA or VGA models (which are really essential for good games playing).

GRAPHICS

The first PCs weren't fitted with graphics as standard but most clones incorporate the necessary hardware and come with a monitor. There are three main standards: CGA - a nasty but all to common colour display, EGA about the lowest colour display worth considering, and Hercules monochrome. To get Amiga/ST graphics you must go for at least EGA or VGA which are usually only fitted as standard to more expensive machines (Amstrad's PC2086 is one exception).

Resolution: CGA 320 x 200; EGA 640 x 350; Hercules 720 x 384 Palette: CGA 8 (in two fixed sets); **FGA 64**

Colours: CGA 4; EGA 16; Hercules 2 Monitor Output: TTL RGB/RGBI (CGA); analogue RGB (EGA) Monitor Options: Vast. Many monitors are dedicated to just one or two modes - some have amber, green or white monochrome displays - check before buying.

Roto

Dam

Day

Ome

Roto

Shac

Shac Shac

Spac

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Te

All

Sprites: None

Speed: From very slow - 8088 to very fast - 80486

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Anything poor from to downright diabolical. MIDI: Third part interfaces available. Stereo Output: No Performance: Not the ideal machine for the musically bent - an

Atari ST offers more for MIDI, the Amiga more for software sound purists.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 5.25in -180/360K/ 1.2Mb; 3.5in 720K/1.44Mb Disk Price: 60p - £3.00

Disk Performance: Average. Most PC owners also buy hard disks. A large amount of PC applications software refuses to work unless you have a hard disk.

Keyboard: Almost as many variations as there are clones. Prefer the AT or extended AT layouts to the XT layout since it easier to use.

Joystick/Mouse: Neither supplied as standard. The better clones include a mouse or at least a mouse port, especially since IBM's WIMP system (Windows) has become more popular.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: Vast! Current Releases: All major software houses now produce something for the PC although few bother to support the better graphics modes so even if you have bought a VGA card, you may still have to play with dreadful CGA colours and reso-

Games: Many of the latest games are now being converted - older titles will not.

Graphics: Given the right graphics adaptor, the PC has nice graphics and the software is usually excellent.

On a standard CGA PC the graphics stink no matter how good the software is.

Music: Pathetic. Even the very best PCs can only manage a weak bleep. Prospects: The PC is the eternal champion - as others fall by the wayside it carries on getting faster and better all the time. This is aided by Intel constantly improving the machine's processor and the vast user base demanding better equipment.

Software Loading: Fast and reliable; very fast from hard disk.

BUYLINES

Best Buy Price: Watch out for package deals form large chains and mail order companies. If you don't know too much about PCs go for a name you know.

Second Hand Availability: Common but be careful you do not get a clapped out monitor/keyboard. Maintenance: Usually one year's guarantee - but competition has forced the price of maintenance contracts down to an affordable level. This often means they fix the machine in-situ for free.

HARDWARE UPGRADE

Ever thought of buying a Mac? Probably not - because up till now they've been prohibitively expensive, although they are superb machines (and have some good - but pricey and usually monochrome - games). This could change in the New Year if Apple go ahead and release their projected 'budget Mac' in the UK. Costing about the same as a cheap PC, it could be a very serious upgrade consideration for some users, so watch this column if you're interested in budget power computing.

Meanwhile, if you've got an

8-bit machine and want to upgrade, there's really never been a better time to do it than this Christmas. That's because for the first time for several years the hardware scene has really settled down. Current 16bit technology is unlikely to change for at least five years. Although the leap from 8-bit to 16-bit architecture represents a quantum leap in power, the upgrade from 16-bit to 32-bit is nowhere near as dramatic in processing terms. 32-bit technology, however, would generate significantly higher construction costs, but without a

really worthwhile increase in functionality.

For that reason, the ST, the Amiga, and the PC are probably here to stay for some considerable time, so you can choose between them (or the Archie and Apple) without worrying that your machine is suddenly going to become out of date.

Of course, there is one other consideration: consoles. Our view at ACE is very definitely this: consoles undoubtedly offer greater arcade gaming possibilities because their dedicated hardware enables programmers to get more out of the machine. On the other hand, it also tempts lazy programmers to do less. Software

prices are high too. However, with the aid of the ACE Console Screentest section and other dedicated magazines you should be able to buy with confidence and avoid the expensive turkeys. And a good game on a console can be a truly great gaming experience. Go on, get a computer AND a console! You know it makes sense!

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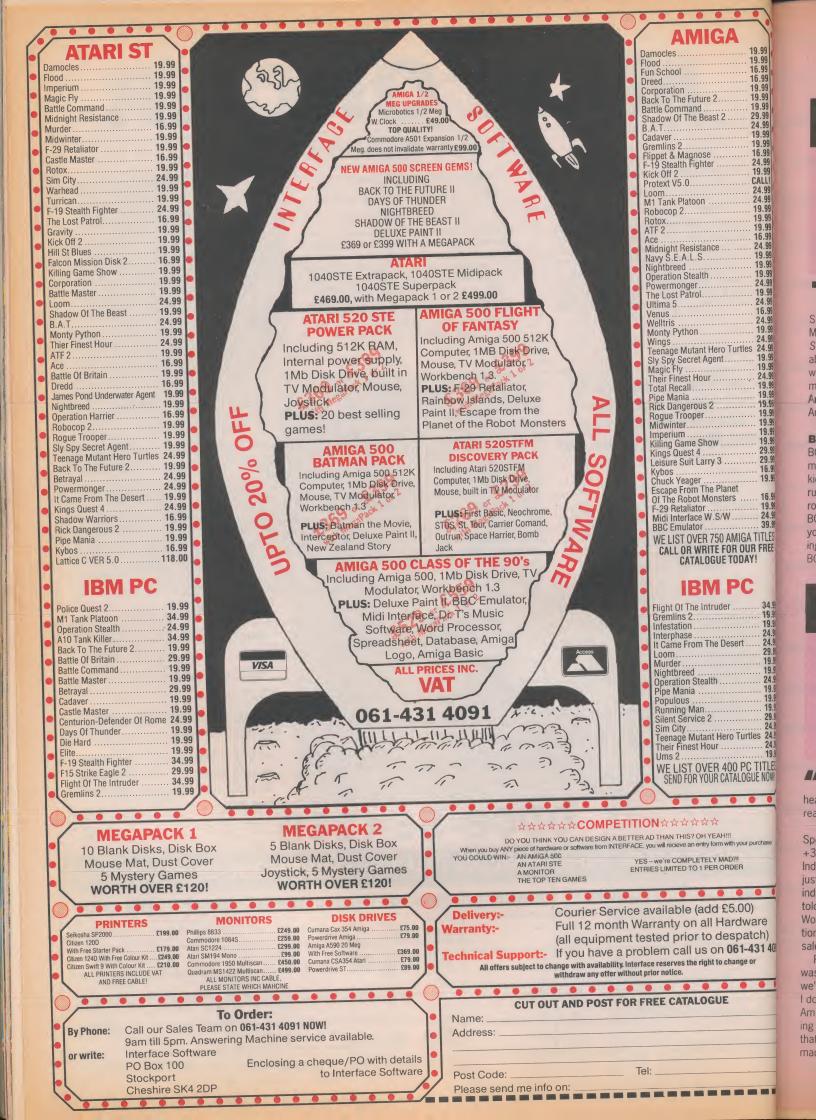
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BOSS TWO (HAWK): Jump his projectile then, as you land, kick him. Keep advancing at him, kicking him whenever possible.

BOSS THREE (GONTA): Make him walk toward

you with his hands outstretched. Run into him, punching rapidly. If he jumps at you, back off. Don't get too far away or he'll run at you. BOSS FOUR (ONI): Stay in the left corner of the screen. When ONI is less than an inch away, kick. He will duck and punch you. As he rises, kick him. Repeat the routine. Don't worry about losing energy, he dies with one energy block left! BOSS FIVE (RITA): Use the following routine on her... Kick, Punch, Down Punch, Down Kick, Kick, Punch, Down Punch, Down Kick, Fly Kick. BOSS SIX (WANG): You're on your own here!

• Jojo Cicero and Mark Hook from Wales

SHINOBI

On the title screen, wait for the Ninja face to appear then press down and button two on the control pad. A blank screen will appear for a second, shortly followed by a screen that allows you to start on any stage of any level.

James Greenland from Bristol

GOLDEN AXE

To add an extra credit (you can only do this once), wait for the GAME OVER message then press the joypad diagonally up and left.

Daniel Jakubas from Loughborough

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Rik Haynes

DIRECT LINE

To YOUR micro...

Monthly machine specific columns for the users of the nine most popular micros, written from a personal viewpoint by other users...

SPECTRUM



nd one by one they fell from grace, with poisoned arrow 'neath their heart. To journey to a distant place where no-one really gave a fart."

The strangest thing to happen in the Spectrum world lately must be absence of the +3 from many large chain-stores at the moment. Indeed, I had a difficult time in obtaining a +3 just a few weeks back and was horrified when independent shops in London and Birmingham told me the machine had been discontinued. Would Amstrad make a decision to halt production on the +3 and bundle all its hopes into the sales of the +2 Christmas pack?

Peter Roback of Amstrad insisted that this was most definitely not the case. "It's true that we'll not be promoting the +3 this Christmas, but I don't know where retailers got the idea that Amstrad had halted production. We are promoting the +2 Bond pack this Christmas but we feel that the +2 promotes the range of Spectrum machines."

He also went on to say that +3's are available and held in stock. He suggested that perhaps independent retailers are not holding much stock of + 3 but insisted that the +3 had always done well through the independents. So, what is exactly happening? Well, the Christmas spend seems to be centered on an advertising budget aimed purely at the +2 double oh, oh, 007 pack which seems to mark a back to cassette only games for we Spectrum owners. Perhaps this news should create a bit of a sales boom in one area at least. All those lucky creatures who sell Multiface 3's and similar tape-to-disk products should be rubbing their hands with glee as they race to the bank.

IT'S WAR!

It's that time of year again when suddenly, all the software houses suddenly leap out of bed, and like an incontinent Ruplestiltskin, suddenly relieve themselves of all the products that they have had slowly working their way through their systems for the whole year. Yes indeed! They've all had the CES exhibition with which to display themselves to the public in a ritual reminiscent of a male peacocks courting ritual. And in a reaction that could very well be equally reminiscent of the female who is being courted, we must ask. "Okay, we've seen the show but what's in it for me?" Well there are a lot of titles out there – all being busily programed even as we speak.

Ocean's hopes for the Yuletide number one slot must rest with their film licence deals – namely *Robocop II* which, if it has the same success as its predecessor, we'll probably see in the top 20 charts for at least a year after

release. It only has to be as good as *Robocop I* and Ocean are once again, in the money. Film licence number two will hit our screen in the guise of Ocean's *Total Recall*, it's still being programed at the time of writing. Though Ocean's *Pang* would take top place this year in the Speccy stakes – if products sold on their own merit. I can only say that it's the best graphics I've ever seen on a Spectrum. And I've seen some

Meanwhile, Mirrorsoft's Predator II is currently under the programmers fingers at Arc Developments. The team have been given a fairly free rein with the development of the gameplay. graphics et al and so, it'll be interesting to see whether this added responsibility will produce the best of results. The graphics on Amiga are excellent and due to the amazing quality of the graphics on Ocean's Pang, I expect a lot of this package. In fact Mirrorsoft may well have it all their own way this Christmas with their major industry scoop - the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtle licence. The full colour graphics on this are good and it seems that Probe, the development house, have done an excellent job. With good gameplay, good, full colour graphics and the Turtle licence. I can't see anyway that Turtles won't take full honors this Christmas.

US Gold has been releasing good quality games regularly throughout the year and Christmas looks to be no exception – but if they can fight through all the big piggy-back marketing of the other biggies, then my friend, they are a man. US Gold have several, including ESWAT, Line of Fire and UN Squadron.

Garth Sumpter

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CPC



ell what have we here? No sooner do several companies speculate as to the doubtful longevity of the CPC, than a virtual barrage of releases find their way onto the market in glorious CPC format, (yay!).

First off, we have Microstyle's *Rick Dangerous II*, the follow up to the incredibly successful puzzle-based platform original. Sporting reasonably drawn, very colourful graphics and very good quality sound (loads of FX and a different tune for each level), *RD II* packs all the frustration and addictiveness of the original, which just goes to prove that there's life in the old CPC yet.

Secondly, we have several releases from the suddenly prolific Gremlin, who have certainly been a bit quiet on the CPC front of late. Not only have they recently released *Switchblade* on GX4000 format, but they are currently in the throes of putting together both *Lotus Esprit Turbo Challenge* and the somewhat ambitious conversion of *Shadow Of The Beast* (originally from Psygnosis). All three of these titles look

impressive, the common denominator being that each use the Amstrad's four-colour mode as opposed to the lower resolution 16-colour mode. The resulting effect is that the extra resolution allows a very impressive level of detail to be achieved – nice going Gremlin!

News now of a recent departure in the games world. Nemesis, the company behind the classics *Bonzo Blitz, Super Meddler* and *Maxidos*, have well and truly kicked the bucket. However, the software will still be made available through suppliers Microstyle (no, nothing to do with the Microprose subsidiary) and the latter product is to be given away with every Microstyle disk drive purchased. All three titles are to appear in software bundles, priced at £13.75 each and since production is to continue, stocks will not be limited. To order or gain more information, contact Microstyle at 212 Dudley Hill Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD2 3DF, or telephone on (0274) 636652.

There's nothing like fluidity in prose, so here it isn't, some assistance for the tape version of the Rainbow Arts blast *Turrican*:

10 DATA 06, 00, 11, 70, 01, cd 20 DATA 77, bc, 3a, 85, 01, 67 30 DATA ee, 75, 6f, 22, 80, 02 40 DATA c3, 80, 01, 21, 7e, 00 50 DATA 22, 59, 1b, c3, 00, 1b 60 DATA af, 32, f0, 04, 3e, c3 70 DATA 32, 63, 8f, c3, 00, 03 80 FOR j=0 TO 41: READ a\$ 90 x=VAL ("&" + a\$): y=y+x 100 POKE j+96, x: NEXT j 110 IFy<> 3644 GOTO 130 120 CALL 96 130 PRINT " data error "

And a quick tip for those of you having trouble with the first couple of screens of *Knightmare...*. Go to the dripping wall, take the water and give it to the old man. Then take the food and give that to him as well, in return for which he should give you a magic spade. Walk into the second room (open door) and use the spade.

Back on the track for news, I hear that Amstrad have decided to withdraw the Speccy Plus 3 from the market. Now whilst Spectrum owners may feels sad at the loss of this machine, it does bode well for those of us with Amstrad's own, especially those considering buying a 6128+. The reason Amstrad stopped manufacturing the disk-driven spectrum, is because it feels that the machine competes with the new 6128. Granted the speccy may cost half as much as the 6128+ AND have the ability to be plugged into any TV, BUT.... the new Amstrad is technically superior and comes packaged with a monitor. In addition to this, now that the Plus 3 has gone, Amstrad will be able to concentrate their full attention on the new machine. A welcome change of heart from the company, who have at times appeared to let their machines plod along in no particular direction.

And finally, the SX1100 Challenger, this stick boasts a somewhat unusual six button configuration, allowing use by either left or right handed players. (There is even an infra-red version for those who like to wander!) And on that rather deranged note, let's hear it for the CPC!

Alex Ruranski

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C64



ith so many people poo-pooing the survival chances of the 8-bit formats, it's good to hear that the C64 is still going strong. In fact, software houses are reporting that C64 games are outselling those of every other 8-bit machine, including the C64's long-time nemesis, the Sinclair Spectrum!

The C64's likelihood of high sales this Xmas are very good, especially following the announcement of Commodore's £159 bundles, which comprises a C64 computer, C2N cassette deck, two joysticks (a great idea with so many two-player games about) and the all-important games. These are made up of two compilations: Ocean's Night Moves, which contains Shadow Warriors, Secret Agent, Midnight Resistance and Nightbreed, and Domark's Mindbenders, which contains Trivial Pursuits, Snare, Confuzion and Split Personalities. The intention would appear to be to mix arcade thrills with more thoughtful tasks, perhaps to attract parents looking for a more educational aspect to a computer and

don't want Junior turning into a video junkie (not that it ever hurt me!).

Commodore has also taken this opportunity to repackage the 1571 disk drive. The price is now down by £50 to £129.99, and this includes the two compilation packs given away with the C64 bundle detailed earlier. Commodore has clamped down on third-party drive manufacturers copying the protected technology used in the disk interface and it has thus seized control of the market.

Of course, if the console is a hit then the future looks even brighter still. The price of the cartridges will apparently be around the £20-25 mark initially (quite steep compared to what C64 owners are used to), but once they start selling in volume this will hopefully drop to about £15, no more than a disk-based game. Incidentally, the game compilation being bundled with the C64GS, which contains Klax, Fiendish Freddy's Big Top o' Fun, Flimbo's Quest and International Soccer, will be released on its own, along with two joysticks, for the delectation and delight of C64 owners at the very reasonable price of £29 99

Commodore seems to have a lot of confidence in the C64 being with us, in some form or another (note that statement!), for quite some time. So, shout it loud and shout it proud, "Long live the Commodore 64!".

I recently had a letter from Peter Martin in Liverpool, who wrote in to say how much he liked the new style Pink Pages (I'm pleased that you do!) and whether I had any pokes for the oldy but very much a goldy Batman -The Caped Crusader. I certainly have, Peter. To obtain infinite energy for the winged wonder in his clash with the

Penguin simply type in the following BASIC routine and RUN it:

10 FOR I=348 TO 432: READ A: POKE I,A: NEXT 20 SYS 384

30 DATA 32, 86, 245, 169, 32, 141, 94, 3, 96 40 DATA 147, 141, 93, 3, 169, 1, 141, 94, 3,

50 DATA 173, 89, 1, 201, 32, 240, 4, 173, 5, 220

60 DATA 96, 169, 169, 141, 89, 1, 169, 1, 141, 159, 125, 76, 32, 6

70 DATA 169, 181, 141, 159, 125, 76, 32, 6

...but for the ruck with the Joker change line 70 to read the following:

70 DATA 169, 181, 141, 210, 126, 76, 32, 6

This is the sort of service I'm more than happy to extend to readers of the column. If you're having trouble with a game, be it old or new, just write in and I'll try to do the best I can to get some tips for it into the next issue. Also, remember that if you have any short tips or hints please send them in.

I have to admit that Peter was the ONLY person who wrote into the column this month. Where are you all? I know that you're out there so do write in – about anything, please! I really do need to know what sort of topics you want to see featured in this column. (Why do I have this terrible feeling that I've said this before?)

Simon Belvedere

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MEGADRIVE



repare yourself for wall to wall playing tips on your favourite Megadrive games from ACE and friends. Don't forget we still need your tips and cheats...

GOLDEN AXE

On the character select screen, simultaneously hold down B and Lower Left to reveal a round select function. • James Dobson from Somerset

THUNDERFORCE III

For an option mode, press A and Start together on the title screen. James Dobson

SUPER SHINOBI

On the waterfall stage where the logs fall horizontally, move to the end of the ledge - jump, somersault and fire so the knives go downwards. If you hear a 'crack' sound, jump on a log and go down for a Ninja Magic then jump back onto the ledge! James Dobson

BATMAN

When you reach the first extra-life symbol, jump across and get it. Go up to the top half of the moving platforms and go back down. Another extra life has appeared. This can be repeated up to nine lives. It is worth noting that this can be done in other parts of the game with Batarangs,

James Dobson

PHELIOS

If completing the game in Advance Mode, don't turn the machine off. Restart the game and you can now play in expert mode!

James Dobson

SPACE HARRIER II

On the title screen press A, B and C to access the music tester. The pieces of music correspond to the levels.

Jody Goodall from Manchester

SUPER MONACO GP

A passcode for all you boy (or girl) racers: 04C6 E1J0 I507 F000 001S B1D5 3627 B4CF 0089 EG00 0183 0002 0000 0000 D200 28DF

James Starmer from Biggleswade

ALEX KIDD IN MIRACLE

This is the best way to play scissors, stone and paper... 1st: Stone, Scissors 2nd: Scissors, Scissors 3rd: Stone, Scissors

4th: Paper, Paper 5th: Stone, Stone

6th: Stone, Scissors James Starmer

AFTERBURNER II

Hold down A, B and C on the second title screen to play any level.

James Starmer

HERZOG ZWEI

The passcode LHJKINAFAMA to read the final level.

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James Starmer

ALTERED BEAST

• Destroy the demon guardian on level one with the A fire button until he starts throwing heads at you. Then, begin to dodge the flying brains by moving left and right while still firing. This monster sprites takes about 50 hits before he goes to the great pixel graveyard in the sky. While the Hell Boar on level five takes 20 shots to kill.

James Starmer

FINAL BLOW

Press Start to get into the main option screen. Unplug your joypad from port one and plug it into port two. Press start and it will be musict your ears.

James Starmer

SUPER SHINOBI

Level One: Select Kariu magic and u it, then somersault and shoot when he is slashing till he explodes.

Level Two: Select Kariu magic and u it. Then, when he is somersaulting, walk next to him, crouch and shoot Do this until he explodes.

Level Three: Walk forwards to the machine, wait until the laser is above you, then walk back to the left hand side of the screen. Wait until the las is above you, then walk forward and the brain should be visible, jump an shoot, then somersault and shoot. The brain will now be hidden again Repeat the cycle described above. After about seven times, select Kari magic and use it. If the brain is still alive, repeat the whole cycle until it explodes.

Level Four: This is an android, wait until it lifts the scrap metal above it head, then walk towards it and slas When it has thrown the metal it will charge twice. Jump over his charge and then he will throw another pie

• Tak On Wong from Harrogate

WHERE ARE YOU BABY?

We need your hints, hi-scores, tips, cheats, comments, views, news and reviews on anything connected wit the Mega 16-bit console from Sega and any of its games cartridges. Come on, don't be shy. Send it all into: MEGADRIVE ACE LINES, ACE Magazine, EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Alternatively yo can fax us on 071 490 1094. What a you waiting for? Get writing now!

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BY? res, tips, news and ected with rom Sega idges. nd it all ES, ACE Priory

ane. atively you 4. What are ing now!

Rik Havnes

ullet-Proof Software has done a good job converting Pipe Dream onto Nintendo's handheld baby. This release could even replace Tetris as



the arcade strategy game to play on the Gameboy. Originally on computer formats, Pipe Dream is a very original title with you acting as a hi-tech plumber building a pipe system so that 'ooze' can freely flow. Fast logical thinking, real-time creativity and quick joypad reflexes are just some of the attributes you require to successfully complete the game. Those generous chaps at Entertainment International have 'lent' me a copy of the game - they won't see this one back in a hurry - so you can expect a full review in the next issue of ACE. Talking of issue 40, we'll also be reviewing Boulderdash, a classic C64 game now available in beautiful portable monochrome. How does it compare to the original? Find out next month...

Dale Wilks has sent in his personal review of this £27 cart from Tomy:

"You've played the (rather old) computer game, you've seen the build'em and break'em plastic toys, now Tomy revives the fearsome warrior robots on the Gameboy. Gameboy Zoids is not a new version of the old strategy game, but a shoot'em-up based on the zoids. You play the part of the heroic blue zoids in a battle to rid the earth of the evil reds. You begin by choosing which team of three zoids you want to use, although this has absolutely no effect on the game, and is purely aesthetic. You are then shown a picture of the zoid's pilot with attributes like speed weight, etc. (Although these are all in Japanese.) The game then begins with your zoid walking from left to right, laying waste to the assorted robots which fly, crawl and swim towards you, whilst avoiding lethal boulders, bushes, fire-spitting volcanoes and other obstacles. Extra energy and weapon upgrades can be collected on the way, and each zoid has their own type of super-weapon, which acts as a kind of smart bomb. These are in short supply, but they can also be found scattered around. After completing 3 stages, one of the main red zoids has to be defeated by shooting it several times before progressing to the next level. There are some excellent shoot'em-ups available for the Gameboy - I'm afraid

Zoids isn't one of them."

HAVE YOU ANY PLAYING **TIPS AND CHEATS?**

Please send your game tips into us at: GAMEBOY ACE LINES, EMAP IMAGES, PRIORY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGDON LANE, LONDON EC1R 3AU.

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

Dale Wilks from Cambridge has sent us in a useful tip on this brilliant martial arts arcade game. When one of turtles is low on energy, press Start to pause the game, then press Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, B and A to give you full energy again. This can only be done once per game.

NEMESIS

Thanks to Mizanur Rahman from Hull for this mega weapon cheat for the classic Konami horiz-scrolling shoot'em-up. Start the game and press Start to pause. Then press Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, B, A, B and A. You'll now have all the weapons except speed-ups and 45° directional firing. Have you a sense of deja vu with this tip? It's about time Konami came up with a new method for activating the cheat modes in its games.

SUPER MARIO LAND

Mizanur Rahman has the locations to the secret rooms in this playable plat-

World 1-1: Pipes 3 and 6 World 2-3: Pipe 9 World 2-1: First and last pipes World 2-2: First and last pipes World 3-1: First and last pipes World 3-2: Pipe 7 World 3-3: Pipe 4 World 4-1: Pipes 1 and 34 (before the stack of guns) World 4-2: Pipes 2 and 12 (use your

gun to collect all the gems)

TETRIS

Jody Goodall from Manchester has found a way to put this arcade puzzle game on speed. Press Down and Start at the same time on the title screen for a super fast game. A heart will appear next to the level number to confirm this cheat.

CASTLEVANIA ADVENTURE

Mizanur Rahman has the way to gain the hidden extra lives in this epic

Level 1: You need a powered up whip, you can now shoot the token with the fireball and the one-up will fall to the ground. Level 2: Run and jump across all three moving platforms, while resisting the temptation of using your

whip while you're in the air. Level 3: Wait for the ceiling to fall then hit the tower four times, make sure the last hit is very late. Quickly run back to the torch, jump and whip it to collect the one-up.

Rik Haynes

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AMIGA



he launch of the CDTV in Spring 1991 is getting ever closer by the minute. However, you may be having reservations about forking out the 700 smackers required to buy yourself this little piece of hardware heaven. After all, the machine may be a marvellous piece of kit, as ACE readers will no doubt be aware, but it wouldn't be the first time that the great British public has decided not to embrace the next best thing since sliced bread.

But have no fear, here comes good ol' Commodore to the rescue. They are currently negotiating with several big High Street television and video outfits to organise CDTV rental, with a monthly fee of £25-30 being suggested. Thus you will be able to give the machine a full testing in the comfort of your own home before having to take the risk of parting with the readies. Well done, Commodore!

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And so, on to games. It's very rare in this world to have a sequel turn out better than the original, but Anco managed to pull it off with Kick Off 2. Fans of this fantastic game - surely one of the true computer classics in recent years - will no doubt be pleased to hear that Anco are soon to release Kick Off 2 Extra Time, which should include such features as pitch slope and goalkeeper control. Keep an eye out for it.

Time seems to be going so quickly. 1990 is slowly drawing to a close and all too soon Xmas will be upon us again. Poor old Granny will be trekking through a howling gale to get to the software shop, scanning the shelves for a game to fill little Timmy's stocking. As she casts her rheumy gaze over the bewildering range of brightly packaged titles, she clutches at the £25 in her gnarled hand, a sum culled from many months scrimping and saving small amounts of her meagre pension.

Which should she buy? She doesn't know anything about these computer games, they all look the same to her. And what if she spends all that hard saved money only to find that Timmy already has it. Oh, the dilemma! Then her gaze falls onto a compilation - Timmy's surely not going to have every game in the pack, is he? Oh, the utter joy! Her trembling fingers clutch the box to her chest as she shuffles towards to the cashier...

Yes, once again the software

manufacturers are bringing out these bundled packages of titles, and it has to be said that many of them are excellent value for money. Here's a quick overview of four of the most recent:

- Platinum, from US Gold, collects four recent hit Capcom conversions, namely Ghouls 'n Ghosts, Strider, Forgotten Worlds and Black Tiger. All are above average conversions, with Black Tiger the only weak link.
- Hollywood Collection, from Ocean, comprises of Batman, Robocop, Ghostbusters II and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (action game). Batman is the main star here, with the other three titles being fairly average. Still good value for money, though.
- TNT, from Domark, bundles the Tengen conversions Xybots, Toobin', APB, Dragon Spirit and Hard Drivin'. These are all decent conversions, and the fact that there are five of 'em makes them even better value.
- Wheels of Fire, again from Domark, is made up of Chase HQ, Turbo Outrun, Powerdrift and Hard Drivin'. If you're a racing freak, you can't really go wrong here. Powerdrift is pretty abysmal, but the rest are at least above average.

There you go, now make up your own minds as to which to spend your (or Granny's) money on.

As you may have noticed, Hard Drivin' appears twice in these compilations, and it thus seems appropriate to pass on this handy little tip from Jason Hutchens, who lives all the way round the other side of the world in North Lake, Western Australia. G'day, friend - it's nice to know that ACE is so widely read!

Anyway, on with the tip. To access it all you have to do is select manual transmission, accelerate to the required speed and then press the "N" key. The speedometer will drop to zero, but the car will continue moving at the old speed. You will find that the car won't skid, or slow down if you crash. If you do want to decrease speed, press "1" to go into first gear. Thanks, Jason!

Those of you having trouble with Rainbow Arts' wonderful Turrican (my favourite blast at the moment) will welcome this cheat mode from Brian Rim of Bristol. Type in BLUESMOBIL on the high score table, and - voila! - 99 lives are yours for the using and abusing!

By the way, if you have any other brief tips or cheats, please send them to me at the usual ACE address. However, please note that maps and long game solutions are really TNT's province. That's all for this month - ciao!

Sam Vickers

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ATARI ST



ecent rumours in the computer industry have indicated that the ST may be on its way out within the next year. What foundation these rumours have I shudder to think. However the deluge of software to be released over the Christmas period makes that statement highly ironic and should see the industry eating its own words – with any luck!

Now for the news... Having heard of Atari's intentions to release an ST console – the Panther – what you may NOT have realised is that the company also have plans for a new mid-range ST – the Jaguar – aimed at low-end Desk Top Publishing and business markets. Scheduled for release next spring, the Jaguar looks intended to fill the gap between the £300 ST and £2000 plus TT, currently hardly bridged by the presence of the STE.

When launched, the new machine should retail at about £750 and, correctly presented (something Atari have been notoriously bad at in the

past), should help secure the apparently doubtful future of the ST (due to a rekindled Atari market).

Next up, another new ST based machine – the pseudo-portable 'Tracy' from Australian company Austech computers, is designed to be plugged into a monitor or TV "on the move". Internal hardware incorporates an Apple Mac emulator, 286-based PC, 40mb hard-disk and 2 megs of Ram.

Right, enough of the teccy stuff, let's move onto the rather more accessible world of GAMES! (yeah!) This Christmas is looking to present ST owners with a huge range of high-quality software of massive variation. Not only are there the obvious licences such as 'Turtles, Robocop 2, Total Recall, Godfather and Gazza 2, but there will also be more original titles looking to become classics, including Infogrames' Light Corridor, (a 3-D scrolling breakout affair), Botix from Krysalis (an isometric Pong derivative) and the excellent B.A.T from UBI Soft, a role-playing game set in a darkened future, boasting a huge number of locations, superb graphics and an exciting new add-on giving the ST 16-channel sound capability! UBI Soft hope that the cartridge will help combat piracy (working as the kind of widgit previously seen in USG's World Class Leaderboard) and if successful, intend to use its capabilities in the future.

So, there you have it. The doom and gloom predicted by the industry seems to have suffocated under its own enthusiasm. Ah well, the world is a strange and fickle place, full of things that mere mortals are not meant to wot of.

James Cogan

MAC EMULATION +

News that may upset die-hard owners – the announcement of two new gadgets allowing the ST to handle Macware, giving the potential to run powerful DTP software of the kind previously unavailable. The first, (Mac Emulator v.3) includes support for the Mac Laserwriter, the ability to format Mac disks on the ST, compatibility for 68020 and 68030 and using PC disks in Macmode. Such a powerful tool should come in very handy for those of you involved with DTP.

Secondly, the market has recently seen the launch of an internal genlock for the Mega-ST range and an external one for STE's, in addition to an enhanced palette giving 4096 colour capability.

Okay I know I said only 2 gadgets, but here's a third. Forging ahead in the quest to allow the ST to operate fully as a Mac replacement for DTP, an ST version of the hardware AppleTalk emulator (surpisingly named STalk!) has become available, allowing the ST to operate an effective DTP system at less than a quarter of the usual cost.

IBM PC



C software is far too expensive. That's right, it's far too expensive – but this is partly your own fault. You see, the price of software has always been related to the initial cost of the machine it services... that's why C64 software always cost more than the Spectrum equivalent, and it's also why your games cost a good deal more (up to 15 quid more in some cases) than those that your mate buys for his ST or Amiga.

Okay, that bit's not your fault, but what is your fault is that publishers are reluctant to release 'budget' software for the PC like they do for every other machine because so far you've kept what's on offer at a low price at a distance somewhat greater than the length of your arm.

The situation is so ridiculous that Virgin Mastertronic's 16-Blitz budget label actually decided to raise the price of its software in order to make it more attractive. According to the label's product manager Andrew Wright:

"PC owners turn up their noses at a game which only costs a fiver, so we've introduced a new range, 16-Blitz Plus, which will feature rereleases of hits at £7.99."

Do you want to read that again? You wouldn't buy it for a fiver so they're now going to charge eight pounds – and it's a good bet that sales will probably increase dramatically.

The most amazing thing is that under these circumstances any of the publishers are bothering to release games at budget prices – but they are, so here's a quick run through of what's come on stream in the last month or so.

One of the larger companies which has only just entered the budget market is Electronic Arts, with its Star Performers range. These are all games which have had a full-price release and are now selling at £9.99. Of the six PC titles available, only three are real stunners – Bard's Tale II, Chuck Yaeger's AFT and Skate Or Die – but that's not a bad strike rate, and picking up those three for the price of one new piece of full-price chart fodder can only be a good thing.

The aforementioned 16 Blitz range also has a new range poised to attack your small change, kicking off with Xenon and Double Dragon: the former (not to be confused with its older brother, Xenon II) was the now infamous Bitmap Brothers' first effort and still provides a good deal of challenging shoot 'em up action – on the subject of Double Dragon however, I think the less that's said the better.

Walsall-based Elite is another of the 'majors' which has decided to unleash some of its back

catalogue, kicking off with two TV licences, A Question Of Sport and Mike Read's Pop Quiz. Actually these are basically the same game, albeit with different questions – and they're actually a little bit on the expensive side at a tenner apiece – but if you want a little family fun, pick the one whose subject matter most suits your preference and kill some time showing off your amazing wealth of trivial knowledge.

The trouble with budget software though is that it's something of a double-edged sword. If games drop in value too quickly, then it's bound to damage their sales when they originally appear as people won't mind waiting a little while to get them at one third of the price. If however, the low price release is delayed for too long then the games will look so out of date that we'll remain in exactly the same situation as we're in at the moment with games buyers looking down with contempt on anything that costs less than 20 pounds.

Personally, I'm looking forward to the day when Populous, Midwinter and the likes become affordable to every PC gamesplayer – and the rise of a strong market for budget software can only help to bring this day a little closer. So, to do your bit, next time you see a gift horse, try to hold back for just a little while before examining its teeth – who knows, you may even end up with a few classics to add to your collection.

Ciaran Brennan

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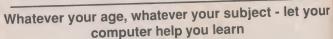
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S.O.F.T.W.A.R.E.

PC ENGINE

ello! and welcome to a completely new column dedicated to the PCEngine and the Super Grafx. There's still uncertainty about an official launch of the Engine in the UK, but in the meantime an Austrian firm called Digital Image Systems have stepped in and purchased the European manufacturing licence. This means that they will be manufacturing and distributing the European PC Engine until NEC take over - hopefully in the spring.

Digital Image Systems will be releasing the console and all the peripherals, such as joypads, 5 player adaptors, audio+visual booster and most importantly the Compact Disc Rom Player. They will also be releasing all the latest and greatest Engine games complete with English instructions and packaging. All this backed up with a helpline phone number sounds like a winner. The main query is whether the machine will be fully compatible with grey imports. First indications appear to be no but nobody will really know until the machine hits the shops, priced at £160-170 for the machine and the normal price for the games....

CORKING GOOD GAMES !!!

New Engine games at the minute after the summer Iull include: Klax which is a pretty good conversion of the arcade game. The gameplay is there but there is a slight difference in the speed and the lack of a two player option is a bit of a disappointment. Another new game is Operation Wolf, the graphics are spot on and that along with the playability involved in going behind enemy lines, and rescuing hostages make this classic game a must for all Engine owners.

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The final important release is the follow up to Legendary Axe 2. It features the same storyline, same gameplay and the same type of graphics but in my opinion Legendary Axe 2 has more depth, and thus is better than the original. Finally supplies of Splatterhouse and Formation Soccer are reaching our shores again.Last time around only a few copies managed to reach us, because of a large demand in Japan. Now their manufacturer's have produced a new batch, and so they should be readily available. Both games are equally brilliant, and I wouldn't be surprised if they were snapped up within a week.

This amazing 8 bit console has been poorly supported with very little in the line of software. The most recent release was Ghouls+Ghosts. This is the follow up to Ghosts+Goblins which was a huge

HIT a few years ago. In this sequel your task is to rescue the Princess Prin Prin from the clutches of Lucifer himself!!! The graphics and sound are spot arcade perfect and believe it or not it plays better than the Megadrive version. Forth coming releases scheduled for a Christmas release are Afterburner 2, and Outrun.

AND FINALLY ...

If the price of Engine games such as the classic Tennis(£32.95) are getting you down, why not buy a second hand copy. Console Quest are one of the leading companies which offer second hand titles for sale. They have a large selection of games ranging from £12.95 for Drunken Master to £25 for a copy of Super Star Solder. They also run an exchange system. The way that works is that if you have finished a game instead of putting it away,use it as part exchange for a completely new game. They also offer a helpful information service and can be contacted on (0903)63786.

If you already own a copy of the best console footy game around at the minute (Formation Soccer) here are the passcodes, and some helpful tactics. The team you play with the passcodes is Holland, and their best formation is 4-3-3. The first tactic to master is how to control the goalkeeper on manual, as the auto keeper doesn't stand a chance on the last few matches. The next tactic you need to master is how to take the ball off the opposing

Once you have this mastered you then teach yourself how to master the skills such as heading and volleying the ball. With this skill you will soon be able to head the ball up for another player in the team to take a shoot. The next two skills are very important. They are passing and shooting. The passing is simple when you get the hang of it, and is absolutely necessary if you want to win the Human Cup '90. The way to score goals is to pass the ball around the outside of the box and then when you see an opening run into the box and hit a hard curling shoot to one of the corners. Another method is to take the ball to the outside left of the box, and then cross it in to a team-

In the following codes list, the arrows are represented by numbers. Straight up is 1, and then straight up/right (like NNE on the compass) is 2, and so on. 1st: 71251517; 2nd: 71255414; 3rd: 51154512; 4th: 71253452; 5th: 61152554; 6th: 71257555; 7th: 61156457; 8th: 71252471; 9th: 611515173; 10th: 61155478; 11th 71256576; 12th: 61153436; 13th: 71254538; 14th 71258433.

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WINERS

HEROES IN A HALF-SHELL

These ten lucky Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle fans have each won £100 worth of Turtle gear and Imageworks products: KEVIN BUCHANAN (Derby), STEVE BILLING (Plymouth), S. KHAN (Ilford), GRAHAM ROSS (London), HIUMAN LEE (W.Yorks), COLIN JACK (Livingston), BEN LARKIN (Shenfield), DAMIAN CASSIDY (Plymouth), JAMES BRIGHTMORE (London) and NIGEL CURL (Coventry).

STOCKWATCH WINNERS

As usual, ACE gives you more - and here are the results of not just Round Ten but Round Eleven as well!

Round Ten saw Core coming out as the top Company, correctly foreseen by Scott Bruce of Cheltenham. Paul Davies of Luton wisely plumped for the timeless classic Head over Heels on the Spectrum. Phil Maxfield (yes, I know, again!) wins yet more software by making a good stab at Murder on the C64. Come on, Phil, what's your method? Kick Off 2 in the ST charts was netted by David Pearce of Southampton, and Corporation on the Amiga was the correct executive decision by Dominic Veney

of Liverpool. Steven Painter of Llywd spotted Stunt Car Racer roaring its way to the top of the Amstrad charts and D.Pickup gets a hole in one for PGA Golf Tour on the PC.

On to Round Eleven, which was obviously a bit tough - there were only four winners! Nobody guessed the top Company (which was Magnetic Scrolls) or the top games in the Spectrum or PC charts (which were *Time Machine* and *Wonderland*, respectively). However, Jeremy Gardner of Gateshead caught sight of *Salamander* slithering up the C64 charts, while R. Hawkins knew *Supremacy* would live up to its name in the Amiga charts. Anthony Amielle of Glasgow caught *Operation Stealth* sneaking up the ST charts, and Christopher Hageney of Sutton Coldfield correctly saw *Stunt Car Racer* going for its second lap on the Amstrad.

Many congratulations to all the above.



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Moonwalker
New Zealand Story
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JOY FAX

Mark Smiddy went to find out what the best buys are in sticks this Christmas...

nough has been said about user interfaces to sink a decent-sized battleship. But what use is there in judging a user interface if it doesn't include the most important part of all the control mechanism? And when it comes to games that usually means a joystick. Mice are a different can of high-tech. worms altogether and there's plenty of juicy tell-tale specifications that can separate good mice from bad ones. But one joystick is much the same as the next one, right?

If that were true then this would be a very short article and you could nip off and enjoy the rest of this ACE issue. Joysticks come in all shapes and sizes and as consumers we buy them by the thousand. Some (the Competition Pro, for instance) have become almost legendary among gamers. Curiously, many players get so attached to one sort of 'stick they steadfastly refuse to buy a different type when the old one wears out. That especially applies to the old Atari offering which, although firmly aimed at "budget" bundles, still finds favour with many

The Megaboard: oodles of controls and even a couple of timers



veterans.

But with Christmas looming ever closer, the manufacturers have something for everyone and what could be a better stocking filler for a favourite grandson than a new 'stick? But as granny meanders into the store and finds herself met by a bewildering selection of styles and a wide variety of prices, how can you influence her decision? For a start it helps if you have some idea of how much her purse will stand – it's no use eyeing the latest top-flight Quickjoys if she can't stretch to more than a tenner.

To help you choose, the table overleaf compares the most important attributes in a joystick – as suggested by a collection of dedicated gamers. But, before you dash off, each one requires some further discussion. In making your choice it's useful to know why. Remembering too, that 'looking good' is not the same as 'playing well'.

Style: this could also be listed under the heading of aesthetics, but it's best kept separate for reasons of clarity. With a few exceptions all joysticks can be placed into 2 distinct categories: those with an "aircraft" grip and those with a good, old-fashioned stick. If you have small hands (or are buying a stick for a youngster) the aircraft grip may prove too clumsy or just plain uncomfortable – they're all made to fit an average hand and as we know so well, Mr Average does not exist. Also, aircraft grips are not very suitable for certain types of games which require a high-degree of 'stick waggling. At the same time, they are ideal for most scrolling shoot-em-ups.

SWITCHES

Despite what the manufacturers may claim, there are more than just two type of switches. Unfortunately, without opening up every 'stick on test, it was impossible to ascertain exactly which variety applied to each stick. Microswitches are just small switches, so without further guidance (or a gentle prod) a manufacturer can legitimately claim that a cheap "bubble" switch is a microswitch. Bubble switches, however, tend to lack feel, and wear out quickly.

Proper microswitches last a lot longer – but even they come in many styles. They all make a sharp "click" when operated. If the stick makes no sound or a dull thud, its probably based on the cheaper bubble switches. Just to confuse matters, clicking microswitches come in many variations. The best ones are usually sealed –



The Quickjoy Topstar

but even they can be confusing. Very few manufacturers will admit to what types they are using. The very best 'sticks use heavy duty switches – but these run expensive.

AUTOFIRE

There are several considerations for autofire. First of all, does the joystick feature an autofire? If it does, can the rate of fire be varied? Can autofire be switched off? Last, does the autofire work correctly on your machine – some autofire joysticks have a "CPC" switch, others don't. Regrettably not all these details were available for all the joysticks listed here at the time of going to press so it's wise to check compatibility before you buy.

ERGONOMICS

This is a fancy word which encompasses a lot of considerations. Actually ergonomics is the study of the relationship between workers and their environment. In this context, it asks precisely how well the designer did their job. That is: does a hand-held joystick sit well in the hand? Are the fire buttons within easy reach? Is the 'stick suitable for a left-hander? Does it have a positive feel? How much force is required to move it?

AESTHETICS

This is another fancy word which doesn't really apply to joysticks. Used by experts, it suggests how good the thing looks. When the bullets start to fly, though, good looks mean about as much as a bent sixpence.

BUILD QUALITY

Is it made to last? This consideration can only be applied to more expensive sticks, the budget ones (under a tenner) are unlikely to take a lot of hammer – but they are cheap to replace. Build quality, like the quality of the microswitches can only be adequately tested by using a joystick until it falls apart – literally! You will only get what you pay for. An expensive joystick with a lot of extra gadgets is unlikely to take the pounding of

THE ACE JOYSTICK BUYERS GUIDE

Name	Т	Α	R	S	E	V	Fire	Price
Atari standard	В	N	N	U	2	2	1d	3.95
Quickjoy Junior	В	N	N	Α	3	3	1u1d	4.95
Ouickshot I	В	N	N	A	3	3	1u1d	5.95
Exterminator	В	N	N	Α	3	2	1u1d	5.95
Quickjoy Junior stick	В	N	N	F	3	2	1u1d	5.95
Slik Stik	В	N	N	U	3	3	1d	6.95
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Quickjoy Megaboard Arcade Power Stick	M	Ý	v	Û	5	6	3u3d	49.95

one with less features but a similar price.

The key is knowing how to check the quality of a stick without actually breaking it in the process. Bearing in mind also, what has already been explained about price – don't expect too much from a cheap unit. Most upright and aircraft joysticks (with the exception of the

THE ACE SELECTION

Judgements are inevitably subjective to some extent, but here for the record are the sticks our testers went for....

- ★ Best Upright Joystick: Competition Pro Glo
- Runners up: Cruiser + Zip Stick * Best Aircraft Joystick: Jetfighter
- Runner up: Superboard

 * Most Ergonomic Design: Navigator
- Runner up: Python

 * Best Budget Joystick: Slik Stick
 Runner up: Atari
- * Most Aesthetic Joystick: Python Runners up: Cruiser + Jetfighter

Navigator) can be placed on a desk. A good test is to place the unit on a sturdy table and hold it firmly by the base. Now grasp the stick firmly with your other hand and force move from left to right and up and down. Apply firm but gentle pressure – this isn't a test of strength and the shopkeeper is likely to take a dim view of anyone breaking a display model. A good joystick will have a positive feel and should have a pronounced stop after each switch activates. If the base appears to flex or creak, or if the handle appears to move more than a tiny amount this joystick is unlikely to take much heavy hammer.

At the same time, this test allows you to get some feel for the stick and the weight of the movement. Generally it should be firm, but not too heavy for your needs. Games which require a lot of 'stick waggling (sports simulations for example) usually work better with a light stick. Where more precise control is required, a stiffer

Special thanks to Dave and Ibby of CHIPS (0642) 488522 for their assistance.

movement is usually the order of the day. Very stiff movements should be avoided because they tend to wear out the player during a long session. A great example of this is the Cruiser which has a three position weight setting.

KEY

- T switching method: M=Microswitch; B=Bubble;
- A Autofire: Y=yes; N=no
- R Autofire rate: Y=yes; N=no; V=variable
- S Style: U=upright; A=aircraft (fist grip); P=pad;
- E Ergonomics: 1=Poor; 6=Excellent
- V Visual appeal (aesthetics): 1=Downright ugly!

FireFire button layout: #d = number of triggers on base; #u = number of triggers on stick. For example:

1u2d = 1 fire button on stick + 2 on baseplate 2u2d = 2 fire buttons on stick + 2 on baseplate 2u1d = 2 fire buttons on stick + 1 on baseplate

5





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Cinemaware/Mirrorsoft • Amiga £14.99dk

For all those who loved It Came From The Desert here is more of the same in the shape of a handy bolt-on scenario. It's fifties style Sci-Fi again, and this time some very strange things are happening to the inhabitants of the tiny Mid-West American town of Lizard's Breath. You play 'Brick' Nash, an ex-fighter pilot determined to solve the riddle of the Antheads. If you enjoy puzzle solving with great graphics and sound, then you can't go far wrong with this number, and if you haven't played It Came From The Desert then why not give that a try first? * ACE RATING 902

Mindscape • Atari ST/STE £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC

Another in the ever expanding number of RPG's portrayed using first-person perspective. Captive, programmed by the veteran Tony Crowther pits you against hordes of rampaging aliens, with nothing but a briefcase at your disposal! This briefcase however, contains a computer giving you remote-control over a four-droid team, with which you must free yourself from the fotress where you are imprisoned. Excellent bitmapped graphics, atmospheric realtime stereo sound and a total of 65000 levels to explore place Captive very much in the ACE rated bracket.

★ ACE RATING 930

CHAOS STRIKES BACK

FTL/Mirrorsoft • Atari ST £24.99 • Amiga TBA

The long awaited sequel to Dungeon Master. If you have already played through the first program you can use your existing characters, otherwise there is another hall of mirrors you can select from. Chaos has a similar feel to Dungeon Master, but is much tougher. There are also some new features thrown in, like a character editor and help oracle (very handy). If you haven't played Dungeon Master then play that first before making a definite date with this game.

*** ACE RATING 945**

CONQUEROR

Rainbow Arts • Atari ST £19.99dk Amiga £24.99dk
 PC £24.99dk An arcade style tank sim which makes use of a 3D graphics system based around the one David Braben developed for Zarch, There are three types of game available: arcade, attrition, and strategy. All three are best played with two joysticks Battlezone style, but there are enough control options to suit every set-up. A definite buy for tank

*** ACE RATING 925**

CORPORATION

Core Design • Atari ST £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC £29.99 This role-playing cybernetic extravaganza from CORE pushes the limits of previous RPG's just that bit further. Corporation is a 3-D exploration, puzzle-orientated arcade combat game (?) in the mould made traditional by the original Dungeon Master RPG. Your objective is to find and remove an embryo belonging to the ultimate biogenetic killing machine, bred by the UCC Corp. Light-source shaded raphics and sound of film-like quality, along with excellent playability and an intuitive control method all contributed in pushing Corporation over the 900

*** ACE RATING 945**

DAMOCLES

Novagen • Atari ST £24.95dk • Amiga £24.95dk • PC TBA This unusual combination of flight

sim and adventure game, and sequel to the well-received Mercenary, has been in development for a couple of years now, but the resulting game has been worth the wait. The wireframe graphics of the original game have been replaced by solid 3D vector graphics, but they are just as fast. There are now nine planets to explore instead of one city, so there is plenty of long term challenge here. * ACE RATING 935

F-19 STEALTH FIGHTER

Microprose • Atari ST £29.99dk • Amiga £29.99dk • PC £39.99dk A program that could well be described as the Flight Simulator's Flight Simulator. The PC version has enjoyed much success since its launca year ago, and now it's brothers on the ST and Amiga look set to do the same. The sim is based around the much talked about (or perhaps that be whispered about) Stealth Fighter. It boasts four huge sceanrios with hundreds of missions, and plenty of detail. If you are looking for the definitive flight sim, then you can't go far wrong with this one.

*** ACE RATING 935**

FLIGHT OF THE INTRUDER

Mirrorsoft/Spectrum Holobyte • Atari ST £??.?? • Amiga £??.?? • PC £??.??

From the people who brought you the superb Falcon comes yet another world beating flight simulation. It is based on the book of the same name by Steven Coonts and has you flying either an Intruder or a Phantom on bombing and reconaissance missions over vietnam. The simulator iery strong on features, including a superb (if a little unrealistic) auto-pilot option.

*** ACE RATING 910**

FUTURE WARS

Palace • Atari ST £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC TBA A totally mouse-driven graphic adventure from French developers Delphine. You are cast as a mildmannered office window cleaner who gets caught up in an alien plot to conquer Earth in the 43rd century. The graphics and background music are very striking and the game is made very accessible by the lack of text entry. There is enough of a challenge here to keep most adventurers happy for some time. A delightful game.

* ACE RATING 910

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GRAVITY

Imageworks • Atari ST £24.95dk • Amiga £24.95dk • PC TBA Deep space strategy unlike anything you've ever seen before. The universe is being invaded by the alien outies who are attempting to turn all the suns in the universe into black holes. Meanwhile you must create as many inhabitable systems as possible. The game makes use of the principle of Einstein-Minkowski fourspace - this makes for some very unusual graphics. When you add programmable drones and travel via black holes you have yourself a highly original and compelling game.

*** ACE RATING 930**

HARPOON

Mirrorsoft/PSS • PC £29.99dk Quite simply the best naval simulation to be released for the General Public. The battleset that comes with the game deals with East-West conflict in the North Sea, but other battlesets will be available soon. A clever system of three map types is used to effectively manage each mission. The nice thing about Harpoon is that the computer takes care of all the boring mechanics, allowing you to concentrate on broad tactics. A must buy for anyone interested in modern navel warfare.

*** ACE RATING 940**

INDIANAPOLIS 500

Electronic Arts • PC £24.95
The ultimate racing game. *Indy* 500
uses state of the art solid vector
graphics which really add something to the high speed action. As in
Activision's *Bomber* there are a variety of out-of-cockpit views to select
from. the realistic handling of the
cars will have you coming back to
this game time and time again.

* ACE RATING 935

INTERPHASE

Imageworks • Atari ST £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC £24.99dk
Your task is to guide a female saboteur to the heart of the Dreamtrack Corporation by interacting with a strange 3D environment. The game is very weird and very compelling. It is also very hard – don't expect to get through this one in a hurry.

* ACE RATING 915

KNIGHTS OF LEGEND

Origin/Mindscape • PC £29.99dk Role Playing at its best. An expandable game set in the land of

Ashtelarea. There are twenty-four quests to complete, or you can simply enjoy exploring. The program stands out because of its attention to detail. There are no less than forty different algorithms to decide how and when an enemy retreats for instance. Impressive stuff.

* ACE RATING 945

LOTUS TURBO ESPRIT

Gremlin • ST £TBA • Amiga £TBA
The latest hot new endorsment
from Gremlin in the shape of Lotus
Turbo Esprit, is something of a godsend for speed freaks. Hailing back
to the classic Pit Stop II, LTE allows
head to head action with the use of
split screen display. Sound and
graphics are of a very high quality
and implemented excellently. It's
very fast, certainly furious and guaanteed to keep your palms sweaty
and your teeth gritted.

* ACE RATING 875

M1 TANK PLATOON

Microprose • PC £39.95dk
The ultimate tank sim. Not only are there realistic 3D vector graphic sequences with a hell of a lot of atmosphere, but you also have to think carefully about choice of platoons, men, and the way you tackle each scenario. Microprose had to call on the Freedom of Information Act to get all the information that they needed for the game. The result is one of the most frighteningly accurate tank sims we've seen.

★ ACE RATING 926

MIDWINTER

Microprose • Atari ST £29.99dk
The latest mega hit from top programmer Mike Singleton, creator of Lords of Midnight. The game is set on a frozen island in the future. You task is to recruit members of the Peace Force to fight off General Masters' invasion force. This is done by managing people and resources via a series of Fractal Maps and menus. The game has disappointing sound, but nice 3D graphics, and enough solid gameplay to keep you going for months.

* ACE RATING 948

MYTH

System 3 • C64 £9.99cs £14.99dk • Spectrum £9.99cs £14.99dk

The game that pushes the C64 and Spectrum further than they have ever been before. Fight your way through several time zones to read the ultimate confrontation with the

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god Dameron. The game is captivating not only because of it's size and depth but also because of the superbly animated sprites and sheer playability.

★ ACE RATING 925

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add to the frantic lead spitting of the original. Best played with a light gun, but a mouse will suffice if you don't have one. Joystick or keyboard controls don't really cope however.

★ ACE RATING 927

PANG

Ocean • Amiga £TBA • ST £TBA • PC £TBA • C64/128 £TBA • Spectrum48/128 £TBA This unlikely mish-mash of space invaders and asteroids makes it to the home computer in all its arcade glory. Bursting bubbles over 50 screens around 17 countries throughout the World, provides for

addictive, compelling arcade fun. Excellent quality graphics and sound, and slick presentation make PANG indistinguishable from its arcade counterpart. Go on... burst a bubble!

*** ACE RATING 840**

PGA TOUR GOLF

Electronic Arts • PC £24.99 Well, what can I say? For anyone who's never set eyes on a golf sim, this is one. Four accurately modelled courses and a wealth of options provide for a comprehensive and playable game. Each course is has been designed for the proffesional player, so fortunately there's a driving range to allow you to practice that swing. Features such as course maps, percentage range indicators and a 3-D display of the green showing every pit and ridge all contribute in pushing PGA GOLF into the ACE Rated category

*** ACE RATING 910**

PIPEMANIA

Entertainment International • Atari ST £19.95dk • Amiga £19.95dk • Spectrum £9.99cs £14.95dk • C64 £9.95cs £14.95dk • Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95dk • PC £19.95dk

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The game that proves plumbing can be fun. You must construct a continuous length of pipe from several sections before the flooz escapes. The action is just as compelling as that in games like Tetris and will have you burning the midnight oil in an attempt to beat the odds. It is available for practically every machine, so there is no excuse for not owning a copy.

* ACE RATING 910

PLAYER MANAGER

Anco • Atari ST £19.95dk • Amiga £19.95dk • Spectrum £9.95cs £14.95dk • C64 £9.95cs £14.95dk • Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95dk

Kick Off with a management/strategy element. The game is completely icon driven, making it easy to get into. The management detail is superb, right down to planning inmatch tactics. And for the match you can either watch from the sidelines or join in with the Kick Off style fun.

★ ACE RATING 920

Ocean • Atari ST £19.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • Spectrum £9.99cs • Amstrad £9.99cs • C64 £9.9905

OPERATION THUNDERBOLT

Eminently successful conversion of the hot coin-op hit Operation Wolf. Grab your Uzi and shoot your way through hordes of terrorists to rescue the luckless hostages. There are new 3D scenarios this time to

All the games in HOT OFF THE SHELF — this month's software selection — have been released in recent months and should be readily available from your local dealer or by mail-order. We've chosen the titles carefully to ensure that, if one should take your fancy, it ought to be readily available. Don't forget that most dealers will be happy to order titles for you if they

Don't forget that most dealers will be happy to order titles for you if they haven't got them in stock.

However, the truly discerning player knows full well that some of the greatest games of all time are not generally available in the shops. ACE is compiling a listing of History's Greatest Games – but we've hit a few snags. Our main problem has been that software houses tend not to keep records on their older games and we have still a lot of detective work to do to locate stocks (if they exist) of older titles. However, we do hope to have the listing ready for the New Year – our apologies for the delay.

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ACE DIARY

NOVEMBER

11 - 17 NOVEMBER SOFTWARE RELEASES

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Software Business: Fool's Errand (ST, Amiga £24.95). Adventure/puzzle game.

Millennium Warriors (C64 £9.95 tape, £14.95 disk).

Security Alert (C64 £9.95 tape, £14.95 disk). Strategy and action from US software house First Star.

Thalion: Enchanted Land (ST, Amiga £24.99). Multiscrolling run'n'jump platform game.

Origin: Wing Commander.
Origin's first flying game, like
a next generation Starglider.

Software Toolworks: Games People Play (PC, £29.99). Follow up to Gin and Cribbage featuring backgammon, draughts, plus gin rummy and cribbage from the previous program.

Image Works: Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (Spectrum, ST, CPC). Need we say more?

US Gold: Strider II, No Limits, No Mercy (PC). Capcom endorsed, Strider follow-up though not based on a specific coin-op.

Limited Edition - Dual Pack: Zak McKracken plus Indiana Jones/Last Crusade - the Graphic Adventure (ST, Amiga, PC £29.99). Double pack featuring these two Lucasfilm games. Free cluebooks thrown in as well.

Micro Style: Rat Pack (PC £29.99)

Microprose: Knights of the Sky

Ubi Soft: *Pick'n'Pile* (Amiga, PC £29.99). Puzzle game: match the balls and clear the screen.

Super Puffy's Saga (PC £24.99).

Ranx (PC £24.99). Arcade

game featuring French cartoon hero.

Sunday 11

Remembrance Sunday. Stevenage, Britain's first "new town", was thus designated on this day in 1946.

Monday 12 Veteran's Day, USA

Tuesday 13

Wednesday 14

Birthday of Charles, Prince of Wales, 1948. The first British record singles charts were published in New Musical Express on this day in 1952. First British number one was Here in my Heart by Al Martino.

Thursday 15 Friday 16 Saturday 17

18 - 24 NOVEMBER SOFTWARE RELEASES

Ocean: Special Criminal Investigation (Chase HQ 2) (Spectrum £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk; C64, CPC cartridge; ST, Amiga £24.99). Police the highways from Paris to the Sahara.

NARC (Spectrum, C64, CPC £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk; ST, Amiga £24.99). Coin-op conversion with you on a drugbust in the twilight areas of the city.

Epic (ST, Amiga £24.99). Intergalactic shoot 'em up from the F29 Retaliator programming team.

Innerprise: Aviators (Battle Squadron II) (Amiga £24.95). All out shoot 'em up.

Kingsoft: *Hagar the Horrible* (C64 £9.95; ST, Amiga, PC £24.95). Nordic arcade action.

Sky Cabbie (C64 £9.95; ST, Amiga, PC £24.95).

Emerald Twins (C64 £9.95; ST, Amiga, PC £24.95). Puzzle game set in series of mazes.

Sunday 18 Monday 19

Brazilian footballer Pele scored his 1,000th goal on this day in 1969.

Tuesday 20 Wednesday 21 Thursday 22

Thanksgiving Day, USA. Independence Day, Lebanon. Birthday of Boris Becker, 1967 **Friday 23**

Anniversary of the first broadcast of Dr Who, in 1963.

Saturday 24

Birthday of Ian Botham, 1955.

25 NOV - 1 DEC SOFTWARE RELEASES

Domark: STUN Runner (Spectrum £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk; ST, Amiga £24.99; PC £29.99). Race through a series of twisting tunnels in this Tengen coin-op conversion.

Badlands (Spectrum £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk; ST, Amiga £24.99; PC £29.99). Two player racing game in Super Sprint style, programmed by Teque.

Virgin: Golden Axe (Spectrum, C64, CPC £10.99 tape, £14.99 disk; ST, Amiga £24.99). Swashbuckling Sega coin-op conversion featuring mighty warriors, dragons and magic potions.

Supremacy (PC £34.99). Vast intergalactic strategy wargame, requiring finely honed tactics and a wide range of gameplay skills.

Psygnosis: Killing Game Show (ST £24.99).

Ubi Soft: Challenger's
Compilation (C64, Spectrum
£14.99, ST, Amiga £24.99, PC
£29.99). ST, Amiga and C64
versions comprise Pro Tennis
Tour, Fighter Bomber, Stunt
Car Racer, Super Ski and Kick
Off; PC version doesn't have
Kick Off; Spectrum version
has Bomber and Tennis, plus
P47 Thunderbolt, Carrier
Command and Rick
Dangerous.

Twin World (PC £24.99).

Sunday 25

Goalkeeper Peter Shilton, England's most capped player, won the first of his international honours on this day in 1970.

Monday 26 Tuesday 27

Wednesday 28 Thursday 29

Republic Day, Yugoslavia

Friday 30

St Andrew's Day - patron saint of Scotland

DECEMBER

Saturday 1

2 - 8 DECEMBER SOFTWARE RELEASES

Ubi Soft: Full Blast
Compilation (Spectrum, C64
£14.99, ST, Amiga, PC £29.99).
Ferrari Formula One, Carrier
Command, Rick Dangerous,
P47 Thunderbolt, Highway
Patrol and Chicago 90 on 16bits; the same minus
Highway Patrol and Chicago
90, but plus Grand Prix 500
on 8-bits.

Ocean: Robocop 2 (Spectrum £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk; C64, CPC cartridge [price]; ST, Amiga £24.99). Return of the tin policeman in a game that promises to be every bit as blockbusting as its predeces-

Puzznic (Spectrum, C64, CPC £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk). Eliminate colour/symbol coded blocks from the screen - another of those infuriating puzzle games.

Accolade: Stratego (ST, Amiga £24.99, PC £29.99). Computer version of the militaristic board game.

Hewson: *Rubicon* (C64, ST, Amiga £24.99). Defeat the radioactive mutants.

Moonfall (ST, Amiga £24.99). Survival on alien planet.

Nebulus II (ST, Amiga £24.99). Innovative platform game returns in a welcome sequel.

Ocean: *Toki* (Spectrum £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk; C64, CPC cartridge; ST, Amiga £24.99). Arcade licence with fantasy scenario.

Pang (C64, CPC cartridge £24.99). Cutie arcade game in Rainbow Islands, NZ Story

Micro Illusions: Firepower (C64 £9.95 tape, £14.95 disk). Two player tank game.

Micro Style: Rat Pack (ST, Amiga £24.99, Spectrum, C64 £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk, CPC £14.99 tape, £19.99 disk)

Sunday 2

Advent Sunday

Monday 3

Tuesday 4

Wednesday 5
National Day (the King's Birthday),

Thailand
Thursday 6

Independence Day, Finland

Friday 7

Anniversary of the assault on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, in 1941, which brought the USA into World War II. Saturday 8

SHOPWATCH

t has been called 'the most eagerly awaited electrical appliance since the colour television'. It boasts NAQ (er, Near Arcade Quality) graphics which, when implemented correctly, are capable of inducing jaw dropping in even the most jaded observer. It loads all software instantly and reliably, ending the tedious procedure of disk access and swapping. It is half the size and price of an Amiga and potentially more powerful. And, amazingly, it's as readily available as The Satanic Verses in a Tehran bookshop.

The official (forget the 'grey imported versions – think long-term) Sega Megadrive has been 'available' for about three weeks, at the time of writing. In that time we have been able to obtain eight machines and yet we could have sold ten times that amount. If our experience is typical (and it appears to be) then Virgin have what could be the biggest selling machine this Christmas on their hands – if they could get enough of them into the shops in time.

So where are they?

The answer, amazingly, seems to be that Virgin/Sega are 'not too concerned' with selling

the Megadrive this Christmas. They want it to be NEXT year's Big Thing. This year they would prefer to shift large amounts of Master systems and, obviously, the associated software.

I am not alone in thinking that this scenario could seriously backfire. If little Jimmy wants a Megadrive then little Jimmy wants a Megadrive! virgin are being (appropriately) naive if they think he will settle for anything less or wait until 'sometime next year'. If little Jimmy's mother can't get her hands on an official Megadrive then she will buy an unofficial one. Which is bad news for everybody concerned (except for the person selling the machine). Incidentally, a 'grey' machine is not grey in colour (as some people seem to think), it can be identified by having a purple, as opposed to silver, plate surrounding the power LED.

So what can be done? Well, if it's not too late, if Virgin NEEDED to obtain fresh stocks, they could, within a matter of days rather than weeks. So if you want a Megadrive this Christmas, it is vital that you let Virgin know how you feel.

And just in case anybody reading this is think-

ing 'What's the problem, I'll just buy a Japanese imported model', then let me correct you. The initial batch of games WILL run (because they are basically just the Japanese games re-packaged) but forthcoming titles most certainly will NOT run correctly. If anyone, retailer or otherwise, tells you differently then treat their words with extreme scepticism. If you want to own a machine which has as much software support as a 16K Spectrum then go ahead, buy an import. You have been warned!

At this time of year many people are considering buying computers/consoles etc either for themselves or as presents. Some people know exactly what they want, while others go shopping only with the concept of buying 'something to help with the children's education'. This latter group are prime targets for some of the less scrupulous members of the retail trade. It is poignantly amusing to have customers come into the shop after Christmas and ask to see our selection of Atari XE education and business software. When we politely inform them that the sum total of such a range would fail to fill a cricket's condom, they immediately transform into 'irate mode'..."But the man in Dickheads said you stocked it!". My advice: go to a shop that's a member of the National Association of Specialist Computer Retailers (identified by a NASCR on the door). And spare a thought for us retailers, besieged at New Year by tearful Jimmies returning their adolescent amphibian games and wailing: "but I thought it was going to be the coin-op, not the crappy Nintendo version".

Whoops! has the feline escaped?!

Dirk Longhorn

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that.

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ADVENTURELINE

Stuck in an adventure? Write in with the name of the game and the nature of your problem. Be as specific as possible and I'll do my best to answer (on these pages only so no SAEs please), and if I don't know the answer, I know a man who.....! News, tips, gossip, anecdotes and adventuring trivia are also all most welcome. Write to me, Pat Winstanley, Adventureline, Pink **Box, Priory Court,** 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London, EC1R 3AU

NOW HEAR THIS!

Last month I asked for contributions for these pages - I'm still looking.
Particularly welcome are short, self-contained hints and single problem solutions like those from Gavin Manning and Paul Hardy below. I'm also interested to hear of PD and Shareware programs - the best will be reviewed (space permitting). So get in touch!

LEISURE SUIT LARRY 1

Beginning a solution by Augustus De Silva

When at Lefties, enter the bar (notice how stubbly you look compared to LSL2). Sit at the empty seat and order a beer. Don't order champagne as Larry will get himself drunk. Now order a whiskey and head for the jukebox. Insert the dime and it will play your favourite tune. Go to the toilet and pick up the rose. Give the whiskey to the drunk who will give you a remote control. Then enter the toilet and read the graffiti. You will find that one reads a password called "Ken sent me". Now look in the sink to find a ring. Pick it up.

Leave Leftie's and call a cab. (Don't enter the alleyway or you will be beaten up). When the driver asks "Where to Mister?", say "Shop". Go into the Quickie Mart and buy a 'lubber' (condom). After he asks what kind and embarrasses you, pay him and leave the shop. If you don't pay, he'll blow you apart with his double barrel rifle.

Get a cab back to Leftie's . Knock on the cushioned door and say the password to the pimp. Now use the control on the TV and keep switching channels until the pimp sits down and watches. Now head for the stairs and take off your clothes. Look at the prostitute and put on the condom, this bit is censored, but afterwards you are no longer a virgin. Pick up the candy and climb out of the window. Fall into the bin and pick up Leftie's hammer. Peel off the condom or the police will arrest you.

Call a cab and go to the casino. Wander about outside until a man with a barrel appears. Buy an apple from the man. Enter the casino and play on the black jack table, saving your game every time you win. Give up when you have broken the bank. Go to the hotel at the back of the casino where the lifts are. Get the disco pass from the ashtray. If you want some fun, visit the can-can dancers at the side, then leave the casino and summon a cab. Go to the disco and show the disco pass to the bouncer then enter the disco.

ZAK MCKRACKEN

Our solution continues from Mike Bareham

While falling, use the parachute and when you land in the water use the kazoo. A dolphin will now appear. Use the blue crystal on the dolphin and you will then have control over it. Swim underwater then to the right to the largest piece of seaweed covering a lump of fallen stone. Pick up the seaweed and you should now see a glowing device. Get the device, return to the surface and give it to Zak.

Change control back to Zak then wait around until an alien comes along and takes you away to the secret room where he will put you into the mindbending machine. You will now have lost your mind, but don't worry as it will soon come back to you. When you come to you will be standing outside the phone company shop. Walk to the left then up the stairs to your bedroom. Use the monkey wrench on the loose boards and the rope in the hole. Walk to the rope and you are now in the Alien's secret room.

Walk to the left to the cabinet and open it. You have now got back all that the aliens took from you. Walk back up the rope and out of the house. Make your way to Lou's loan shop. Buy a lotto ticket and write down the number you got from the alien ship. Now go back outside and switch to Leslie.

LEISURE SUIT LARRY 2

The start of a new solution from Augustus De Silva

Once the fancy LSL tune is over and you are left in control of the jerk himself, walk into the garage until you are no longer seen, then pick up the dollar stuffed in Eve's pocket. (Eve is now LSL's ex- girlfriend). Then with only a dollar you must spend it on a "Luck-o-Buck" ticket at the Quickie Mart. Always remember to save your game every now and then.

Walk to the studio and give a ticket to the woman. She will have lost her glasses and will give you the winning numbers. Write them down and give them to her and you will have won. Once in the green room, sit down and wait until you are on the Dating Connection show, then sit down and wait until you are invited to spin the wheel. You will win a million dollar note.

ADVENTURE CONFERENCE?

Read about the ACE Conference in Intermediates' magazine? If you'd like to come along, check out the Conferences section next month.

CORPORATION

Hints from Paul Hardy

Take at least one time bomb with you into the NCC building and use it to blow up the walls of the cell if you are imprisoned. Place the bomb in one corner after setting it then retreat to the farthest corner. Stock cameras and detectors as soon as possible, but if the alarms do go off, run like hell; the further from the scene you get the better. The key to using the powers of the mind lies in the head of the left hand picture of the body, above the 'damage' rating.

HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

An answer to one of the most common queries: how to get the Babel fish. Thanks to Gavin Manning.

First take both the satchel and the towel. Then hang your gown on the hook (after removing it). Next cover the drain with the towel and cover the panel with the satchel. Put the junk mail on top of the satchel and press the dispenser button. A Babel fish shoots out, goes down the sleeve of the gown and hits the towel. A cleaning robot then comes out and picks up the fish. It then hits the satchel sending the junk mail and fish into the air. An upper-half-of-the-room-cleaning- robot comes out, collects only the junk mail (as it can't manage any more) and the Babel fish lands in your ear with a loud "squish".

...and how to enter the engine room The game says that this is a very dangerous room and you will die if you enter it. That is not true, but it is very obstinate. Simply be as obstinate about getting in there and you will eventually. Then it says there is nothing in the room but it is lying again. Keep looking and examine the room and something will become visible.

CORRUPTION

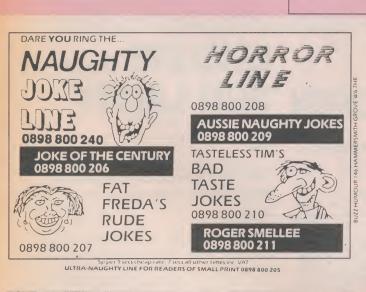
The solution completed by Alexis Kofteros

After collecting your things from the pavement, go to David's office and remove the television. Wear the stethoscope and listen to the safe with it. Unlock the safe and get the chips. Go to La Monaco and show the chips to the waiter. He will lead you outside the casino - knock on the door to get in. Give the chips to the teller who will then ask you to bring him a document. Wait in the casino until 4 O'clock then go to Mr Hughes' office. Use your credit card to unlock the door.

Enter the office, smash the drawer, and get the document. Read it and then go to the police. Tell Russell about the document. Once in the interview room, give the envelope to Goddard, ensuring that it contains the cheque. Tell Goddard about your BMW then give him the document. He will ask you to cooperate with him - you must accept. Go to Le Monaco and show chips to the waiter. Enter the casino and give the document to Charpontieur. Don't panic! The police will break in to save you. The only thing you have to do is sit comfortably on your chair and enjoy the end!

INFOLINES

Lots of people have asked me about adventure creators for the Amiga so I was pleased to hear of "Hatrack II" from Heyley Software. Features are said to include a built -in multiple sentence parser handling verbs, nouns, adjectives and prepositions, a mouse-driven graphical compass/control panel designer and total control over screen layout and colour. A play-test feature is that you can use menu interrupts to examine and alter the state of play, so cutting down development time. The price is £29.95 and more details are available from Heyley Software, 27 Winnington Road, Marple, Stockport, SK6 6PD.







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Our monthly prize word puzzler, set by the inimitable MIPS

Despite complaints from a small minority of readers, the ACE Crossword seems to be growing in popularity every month. Make sure you get your entry in before this month's deadline!

PUZZLE PRIZES

Until recently, we've been offering £25 cash prizes to winners of the £25 cash prizes to winners of the ACE puzzle and crossword, but several people have been asking us for games instead. From now on all prizes will be in software, so please make sure you include your name, address, and machine for-

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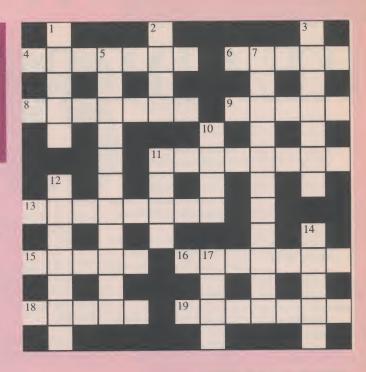
- Teenage mutants let rust develop (7)
- Colour to be seen in **RAM development (5)**
- **Prisoner of game** from Mindscape (7)
- **Admission of sentry** losing his head (5)
- 11 Game for lad attached to push-chair (8)
- 13 New development, i.e. Zen, for computer game (8)
- 15 Devil of a diisguise for Santa from 12 down
- Award he gets for developing Activision game (7)
- 18 Does away with skill say some (5)
- 19 Gone, so I play the game (7)

CLUES DOWN

- Alan's crystals (5)
- 2 Fuel some of the wilder viruses (4)
- Game from 4th **Dimension that's very** non-constructive (7)
- Game in which nothing is forgotten? (5,6)
- Virgin's flying circus

ATTENTION!

Have you won a prize for either the ACE Puzzle or the ACE Crossword which you have not received? If you're one of these unlucky souls, give us a ring and we'll sort you out straightaway. Remember that we can no longer guarantee individual choices of games to prizewinners, but we'll make sure the games get the



(5,6)

- 10 Gore spilt in game from Origin Systems (4)
- 11 Give computer a kick
- to load program? (4)
- 12 Manic, I'd foolishly formed a software house
- 14 Some reveal a serviceable type of printer
- 17 So Ma returns with game oriented language (4)

HOW TO ENTER

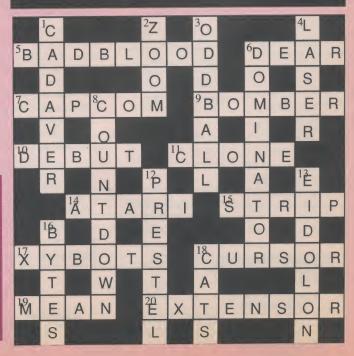
Every month we offer a free game worth up to E25 if you're the sender of the first correct cross-word solution out of the hat. The address for entries is: ACE December 90 Crossword,

Farringdon Lane London EC1R 3AU

The deadline is Thursday 6th December 1990. Entries not entered into the competition!

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 90 CROSSWORD

And the winner was Tony Martin of Peterborough, who receives a a free game for his Amiga 500.



ACE

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FREBIES

Mark Smiddy casts a watchful eye over the wide world of Public Domain software and finds from little oranges. . . giant games doth grow.

andarin's STOS has been well received in some quarters and criticised in others; in both cases with good reason. But this article is not about tearing strips off STOS (or AMOS) – it's about what programmers have been up to. Since the proof of the pudding is in the eating – spoons at the ready – let's discover if STOS and AMOS really are what they're cracked up to be. Or are they just a test vehicle for prototyping games?

LAND AHOY...

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"Well shiver me timbers matey, that salty ole pirate, Captain Blackhook has gorn oft an lost his treasure map. Ee's managed to find the island where 'ee buried it alright, but now the crew are threatening a mutiny if 'ee doesn't come up with the goods – and pretty quick too! Why only last night, one could 'ear the sound of sharpening cutlasses, plotting on the poop deck, grumbling in the galley and murmurs by the mainsail."

That about sums up the level of intellect required to play *Treasure Search* (ST and Amiga, public domain) but is it a proliferation of Pugwash or just a load of old hogwash? To be honest, and although I hate to admit it, this kiddies game is great fun. The idea is simple enough, one or two players have to locate the treasure on a fictional 10 x 10 Km island paradise.

Keeping things as straightforward as

WE WANT YOU

Whadya mean, "my PD Library/ game hasn't been included!" Don't just sit there and complain. Write to the author, Co. ACE at the usual address, marking your envelope in LARGE LETTERS "PINK PAGES PD". Disks cannot be returned – but what's the price of a disk compared to coverage in ACE? possible it only has two levels of difficulty – easy (unlimited moves) or hard (limited moves). There's also an optional hint system – more of that in a moment. After the player(s) have made their choice, the game starts with a grid map and the captain asking where they think the treasure lies. Two numbers have to be entered – the number of Kms to move from East to West; and similarly along the North-South line. Then, a little pair of feet tramp along to the selected location and search for hidden treasure.

Unless the player locates the treasure, the ole sea dog booms, "There's no treasure here, shipmate!" This is usually accompanied by one of several pictures depicting where the captain is: being pursued by a bear; looking into a lion's mouth; about to become a native's main course; even underwater – with appropriate gurgling sound FX.

SHAMELESS PLUG

CHIPS of Middlesbrough would like you to know about their "Megadrive" competition. Every customer spending something gets a raffle ticket and the draw is made at the end of trading every Saturday. This competition is running up until Christmas. They can be contacted on 0642 219139.

If the hint system is active, the program tells the player how many Kms they are away from the treasure. This is especially useful for young minds to help with an appreciation of 2D spatial coordination and distancing.

At the end of the game, the player either gets the reward of the captain's greedy voice shouting "You've found my treasure" or a sight of the crew finally losing faith and making the poor guy walk the plank. The graphics are clear and colourful and the sound effects amusing. For little more than the price of a disk, this PD offering certainly doesn't show the real power of STOS & AMOS, but should provide hours of perplexing but pretty basic fun for juveniles of any age. Price: £2.95 (ST) or £3.45 (Amiga).

ROLL 'EM

Giving a description of *Poker Dice* (ST only) would not do it any favours – it just has to be seen (and heard) to be believed. Apart

from being a great little game to while away the odd half-hour, from the title screen to the desktop – it's a beautifully designed and brilliantly thought-out implementation. For those who have never played poker dice before here's a quick review of the game.

In essence the game is a simplification of the classic card game, Poker. In Poker you have 52 cards and each player receives five. From this, each attempts to collect cards making up sequences: two kings and three aces; two pairs; numerical run and so on. Poker dice works in the same way but since a die only has six faces, only six "cards" are possible: nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King and Ace. This simplifies the game considerably because there are no suits to confuse matters.

What gives this ostensibly simple game the massive edge is the level of perfectionism the author has instilled in the graphics and sound. The title page is a digitised image of night-time Las Vegas accompanied by some raucous digitised music. Clicking the mouse takes the players to the control screen where you decide how many human players will play. Up to five players can partake in any one game with any mix of humans and computer. With zero human players the game enters a simulation mode.

The real treat comes as gameplay starts. A lovely little sampled croupier shouts, "Next" and one of a set of doors behind the playing area opens and a die spins out in perspective 3D that wouldn't look out of place in Starglider 2. The next four dice spin out in a similar fashion, each accompanied by a satisfying "swish". Click on the dice to hold and a gold label drops from behind with another sampled "clang". So it goes on until the round finishes.

Poker Dice plays an average but satisfying version of the game – not impossible to beat, but not too easy. However, gameplay is not what Poker Dice is really about – if ever there was a beautiful demo of what can be done in STOS, this is it. The graphics and sound are really impressive – suffice to say, if the Bitmap Bros. (Speedball, Xenon etc.) had written Poker Dice, it would probably look like this. This deserves to be in every collection: at £2.95, it ought to be!

THE LAST WORD

Which brings me to the reason why this month's round up almost didn't make it. Publishing deadlines? Don't you believe it – courtesy of Satsuma Software came a game which was so addictive I had be surgically removed from the ST! What's it called? Plumb Crazy – and no prizes for guessing what it's based on. Full review next month. This selection came courtesy of Sandra Sharkey's AMOS PD Library.

Sandra is one of the recognised distributors of the licenceware games mentioned, this ensures the extra charge levied on those programs is given directly to the author. Her address is: Sandra Sharkey, The AMOS PD Library, 25 Park Road, Wigan, Lancs. WN6 7AA. Tel: (0942) 495261.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA MICROMANNICA

ere it is...a list of those vital topics that every up-market gamester needs to have at his command. Just because you thrashed the host at two-player *Tetris* doesn't mean you'll be the star of the party. No chum, you need knowhow. And here's where to find it....

Each entry has a brief explanation, followed by a reference to an issue, so that you can hunt down the full lucid, in-depth, ACE assessment.

If, however, you missed an issue because you were abroad on a covert SAS operation, or nursing a sick relative in Botswana, or some other unlikely excuse, fret no longer. Back issues are available for all issues from ACE 4 inclusive (except ACE 11) at the giveaway price of £2.50 each in the UK and £3.50 each for overseas. These prices include post and packaging (surface mail). Overseas readers wanting airmail delivery should enquire as to the cost at the address below, listing the issues required.

To order, clearly list the required issue numbers and send them, along with your full name and address and a cheque or postal order for the full payment made payable to ACE magazine, to:

ACE Back Issues, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 6AA.

• ASAT (AVIONICS SITUATIONAL AWARENESS TRAINER), combat flight simulator for the US Air Force by Perceptronics. Uses Falcon software by Spectrum Holobyte/Mirrorsoft. Features

ACE Back Issues can expand your collection – and your mind. Here's a checklist of topics covered in previous mags...

include: networking for multi-player action, tactile feedback and fingertip weapon selection. [ACE14]

- BATMAN DIGITAL JUSTICE is the world's first interactive hypercomic by Pepe Moreno. "Digital is the art medium of the future." [ACE30]
- BATTLETECH, "the world's first complete computer simulation for play", featuring multiplayer cockpits equipped with 40Mhz 16 million colour graphics processors, stereo spatial sound and lifelike controls as you command 31st century Mechs. [ACE28]
- BIT BOPPER, the world's first total audio-visual entertainment system by Technation. Alex Blok's cyberscratch bit-tripper packs twin 32-bit decks, Sony erasable optical disc and custom-made video samplers. [ACE19]
- **CD-I** (Compact Disc Interactive) is destined to become the entertainment and education medium of the 90's. [ACE9/21/22/24/32/33/35]. Check out Issue 30 for multi-media principles (hypermedia in particular) and issue 24 for a preview of the Philips CD-I system.
- CDTV, Commodore's attempt to bring multimedia to the mass-market. An Amiga with built-in CD-ROM drive and CD-audio capability, redesigned to look like a VCR. [ACE34]

- **COSMIC OSMO**, the world's first hypergame-courtesy of Cyan Software/Activision. Check out issue 23 for the first review, issue 24 for a feature on hypergames, and issue 30 for general hypermdia coverage. New Osmo CD-ROM version featured in issue 36.
- FLARE TECHNOLOGY, trio of talented Cambridge-based games hardware engineers. Their custom-designed Flare One micro formed the basis of the Konix console. [ACE11]
- FUJITSU FM TOWNS, a 32-bit 16 million colour computer with built-in CD-ROM drive. If you bought ACE 31 you could have won one! [ACE27]
- **HYPERGAMES** like Cosmic Osmo and Batman Digital Justice are paving the way for CD-I entertainment. [ACE24/30]
- INMOS FLIGHT SIMULATOR, the world's first multi-player Transputer game running at 23 frames per second on 11 Transputers. [ACE7]
- INTEGRATED FLIGHT AND ENTERTAIN-MENT SERVICES SYSTEM, Plessey's answer to boring plane journeys - video games displayed on the seat in front of you. [ACE25]
- INTERACTIVE VIDEO TAPE, an alternative to CD-I. [ACE26]
- KONIX CONSOLE, a powerful British console with revolutionary built-in joystick controller which could change into a steering wheel, motorbike handle or aeroplane yoke. Ultimately failed due to a lack of marketing money. Rumours suggest a new buyer is interested. [ACE18/25]
- LIGHTSPEED SPRITES, three researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, USA have developed an algorithm enabling them to generate graphical simulations of objects seen travelling at 99% of the speed of light. [ACE34]
- MEDIA LAB, Boston-based research institute with one simple brief invent the future. People at this Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) facility are working on computer generated holograms, interactive computer newspapers and virtual reality man-machine interfaces.

 [ACF9]
- **NEO-GEO**, a new home- and arcade-based games console from SNK in Japan, with storage capacity for 64Mb games cartridges and IC card capability. ACE gave you an exclusive chance to win one in issue 34. [ACE32/34]
- POPULOUS, highly invluential 963 ACE-Rated arcade strategy game by Bullfrog/Electronic Arts. [ACE18/19]
- **RENDERMAN**, the unique 3D graphics system by Pixar which creates polygons with photorealistic detail. [ACE35]
- TURBOEXPRESS, currently the best colour handheld console - a portable version of the NEC PC Engine, fully compatible with existing games cartridges. [ACE35]

GAMESBUSTING WITH TNT BACK ISSUES

Due to shortage of space, we've had to postpone our mega-TNT guide until next month. Apologies to all concerned. Meanwhile, if you're looking for solutions, here's a reminder of the games we've carried in recent months.

ISSUE 29

Dungeon Master Guide (part one) - Les Rigden AD&D and Bard's Tale -Colin Taylor Batman- the Movie - Adam Morley

ISSUE 30

Dungeon Master Guide (part two)

ISSUE 31

Space Ace - David Williams and Chris West Dungeon Master Guide (part three) Future Wars - Phil Thompson

ISSUE 32

Dungeon Master Guide (part four, final part) Complete guide to Ys - Jojo Cicero and Mark Cook

ISSUE 33

No guides or solutions, but loads of shorties

ISSUE 34

Castle Master - Incentive
Midwinter - Microprose
Guide to hacking on the C64

(part one) - Jon

ISSUE 35

Drakkhen Guide (part one) -Adam Morley Xenomorph (part one) -Alan Coates Guide to hacking on the C64 (part two)

ISSUE 36

Defender of the Crown (mini players guide) - Paul Thomas Lots of shorties

ISSUE 37

Drakkhen (part two)
Xenomorph (part two)
Guide to hacking on C64 (part three)
The ACE guide to solutions.

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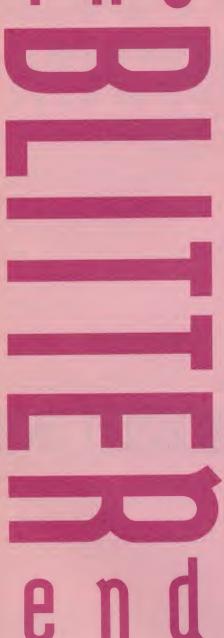
ADVERTISERS INDEX

Audiogenic	46
Amstrad	
Anco	
Avesoft	
Blackmoon	
Bonwell	
Bruce Everriss	
Console Supplies	
Console Quest	
Cottage Software	
Domark	
Digital Integration	
Dial - a Quiz	
Elite	
Entertainment Internat	
GLC	
GPS	
Impressions	
Infogrames	
Interface	
Impex	
Instamec	
Jokeline	

K&M Computers164
Kosmos150
Medusa161
Mansfield163
MPH150
Mindscape57,77,121
Microprose16,17,70,71,32,33
Mirrorsoft10,27,86,93,97,112
Microsmart136,137
Midland135
Mail Centa134
Mistral151
Nintendo105
New World Consoles127
OceanIFC,IBC,12,18,63,68
Official Secrets114,115
Prism122
Premier mail Order172
PC Engine143
Poste Haste144
Proton147
Psychosoft145
Rainbow Arts82,118

Romsoft	148
Rapid	152
Qualsoft	
Raven	170
Strategic Plus Software	
Silica	
Spectravideo	
Storm	
Shekhana Computers	
Software City	
Softsellers	
State of the Art	162
Tofware	158
TV Games	140
Touch Computers	153
Turboware	
TC Computers	
Telegames	174
Virgin89,102,	108,109
Ubisoft58,6	60,61,36
US GoldOBC,22,2	23,28,29
Unicorn	150
Worldwide	154

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DON'T MISS OUT!

Use this form to reserve yourself a copy of next month's ACE...

DEAR NEWSAGENT,

As a sophisticated user of highly complex electronic equipment for entertainment purposes, I do hereby request and require you to ensure that I get my copy of ACE issue 40 - the January (Christmas) issue of Advanced Computer Entertainment, due out on Thursday 6th December 1990. I need you to reserve a copy because the ultimate games magazine is vital to my long-term games future...

My Name	
My Address	

y the time you've read this snippet, you'll either be patting yourself on the back or cursing your luck. Here's why...

On page 33 of the last issue there was a Mystery Bonus Voucher for you to use with this month's cover mounted gift. If you were clever enough to cut it out and keep it, you could, if you're one of the winners, be rewarded not only with a free Game Boy but ALSO with £100 of Game Boy software. Yessir! All you have to do is stick that voucher on your entry and if you're one of the winners, you'll strike EXTRA lucky!

GAZZA II

Yay! Blitter is proud to take the final step in offering you the chance to Meet Gazza. Here's the second instalment of Entertainment Interantional/Empire's great comp, where one lucky reader will get the chance to meet the man in person.

Having successfully identified the two Entertainment International products on page 30 of Issue 38, write your answers down (on a postcard only please), along with the answer to this third and final question.

 Which mutant comic character have Empire recently acquired the licence to, and are shortly to be releasing a game about?

The answer (if you're flummoxed) is in this issue. Send the answer along with the original two plus your name, address, and daytime phone number (if possible) to: ACE GAZZA COMP, Box 2, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Make sure you read the rules in the panel at the bottom left hand of the page before sending in your entry.

In correction of our provisional title in last month's Gazza feature, we can now reveal that although provisionally entitled Gazza's Super Soccer) the new game is going to be called (wait for it....) Gazza 2! Available on all formats in mid-November at £24.99 for 16-bit and GX4000 and £9.99/£14.99 for 8-bits. Empire have asked us to warn CPC owners that the GX4000 versions may appear before the other Amstrad ones. Sorry, cpchappies.

A spokeswoman for El/Empire said "we believe that Gazza 2 has 100% potential, and will compete happily against the likes of Kick

GAZZA RULES

- 1 Deadline for entries is Thursday 6th December.
- 2. The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at random from the qualifying entries.
- 3. Unstamped or incorrectly addressed entries will not be eligible for entry.
- 4. Employees of EMAP Images or **Entertainment International, or anyone** involved in the manufacture, sale, or distribution of their products are not eligible for entry.

IT'S THE BIG ONE!

Hot Games for Cold Months

What games should you consider buying this Christmas? ACE checks-out the front runners in the race for the top Xmas spot.

We'll be taking a look at Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Robocop II, Total Recall, Line of Fire, Gazza II, Speedball II, Golden Axe, ESWAT, BAT, Champion of Raj, 4D-Boxing, Wrath of the Demon, Narc, Secret Weapons of the Luftwaffe, Nebulus II, and lots more for all the major micros – plus Pipe Dream (Gameboy), Strider (Megadrive), Days of Thunder (Nintendo Entertainment System) and the latest in CD-

Find out what we think of the Christmas '90 games releases in the next bumper issue of ACE

☞ The Future of 'Intertainment'... Now

Next month ACE is bringing you exclusive on-the-spot reports from the Intertainment '90, the 3rd Annual Conference on Interactive Entertainment just held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York, USA.

Speakers at the conference include key person-nel from Origin, Lucasfilm Games, Sierra On-Line, Cinemaware, Mediagenic (Activision), MTV, Magnetic Scrolls, American Interactive Media

Magnetic Scrolls, American Interactive Media (Philips), ABC, Time-Life, NEC, Mattel, Mitsubishi, Children's Television Workshop (Sesame Street), AT&T and, of course, ACE.

What are the New Gaming Worlds? Will you be experiencing 'Adventures in Cyberspace' in the next few years? How and where will interactive entertainment fit-in with such technologies as HDTV, holography and digital television? What is Hyperfiction? Are companies maximising the impact of interactive entertainment with floppy disk adverts, sponsorship of video games, on-line ads and interactive TV advertising?

Will the 90's become the 'Decade of Interactive Entertainment'? The only sure way to find out is to buy the next issue of ACE.

™ Happy New Year!

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000PS!

Last month's Terran Envoy details should have read: Amiga/PC versions cost £24.99 (out now). There will not be an ST version and no other versions are planned. Our apologies to all concerned.

OC





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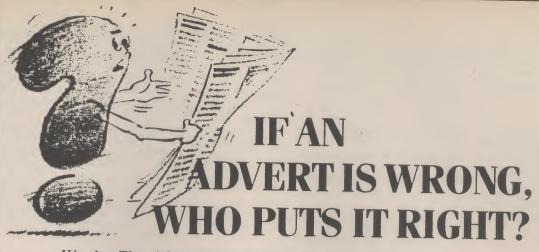


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